

Attachment of bids received  
July 8, 1846, for furnishing  
Hdy. at and in the vicinity  
of Fort Scott

Abstract of bids received July 8th 1846, for furnishing  
Hay, at and in the vicinity of Fort Scott.

No	Bidders names	Residence	Rates		Remarks
			Dollrs	Cents	
1	A. G. Hall	Fort Scott	4	99	Taken
2	George Douglass	Rates County, Mo.	4	00	
3	W. C. Armer	Rates County, Mo.	4	97	

*Officer Quarters #1*

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H. R. Antle, Report on Trip to Forts Riley and Leavenworth, 1850.

Quarters Furnishings. All bunks, benches and tables are made by the Quartermaster Department. They are to be made of such material as is available to the Department.

A diagram of a table is attached.

An officer's quarters other than living quarters will be furnished with the following:

- 2 common desks or tables
- 6 common chairs
- 1 pair common andirons
- 1 pair shovel and tongs

All bunks, benches, tables, desks, cahirs are to be finished with a stain made of a mixture of burnt sienna and vandyke brown stirred up in water. This stain is to beapplied with asponge. The mixture will be darkened to taste but uniform for all furniture and equipment. The above equipment is uniform for all barracks, guardhouses, hospitals and offices.

Painting. All door and window and any other woodwork will be painted with white lead paint, with these exceptions:

Shutters and window shades will use verdigris  
Fireplace mantels will be of lamp black

All pigments will be mixed with oil or covered with oil.

Barracks and Quarters Regulations, 1860.

## DESCRIPTION OF RECOMMENDED FURNISHINGS

In the years before the advent of modern transportation, the household effects of transferred United States Army officers and their families rolled across the western prairies and plains in wagons provided by the Quartermaster Department. Crowded into every nook and coerner of the wagon beds were packing boxes, barrels, furniture, and supplies. From these, the poundage strictly regulated by rank, an Army wife would make a home at her husband's new post. Although some prized possessions had been left behind, too bulky to transport, and some breakage would occur before the final box had been unpacked, these women uncomplainingly accepted their lot and even, when their husbands reached retirement, looked back with nostalgia and affection to their moves. It was from such a mold that Charlotte Swords was cast.

Understandably, Charlotte must have exclaimed with delight, when her brand new quarters at Fort Scott were ready for occupancy. They had been built under the supervision of her husband, Thomas, who was assistant quartermaster at the post. Since Captain Swords had visited his wife at Fort Leavenworth frequently while she was waiting for the quarters to be finished, Charlotte may have had a rare opportunity to plan the furnishings for her new home

in advance. Our knowledge of what Mrs. Swords packed and sent in the wagons that lumbered out of Fort Leavenworth on the trail to Fort Scott in 1843 is limited. In none of her surviving letters does Charlotte Swords dwell on material things. She appears to have been content to be with her husband and to have occupied her thoughts with the activities and social life of the post.

The furnishings recommended on the following pages are intended to reflect both the above average financial status of the Swords, who seem to have had investments in New York City, and the transportation problems that developed during the movement of furnishings to remote frontier posts during the 1840's period. Charlotte was married to Thomas Swords in 1838; and many of their furnishings would have been considered somewhat "new." Other older furnishings would have been purchased from fellow officers, when the latter were transferred to other remote posts and had to leave larger items behind. Since Thomas Swords was the quartermaster at Fort Scott, it may be presumed that the carpenters at his disposal were able to fabricate additional simple furniture when the need arose. Life was made easier for the Swords by the services of slaves, whose presence at the post relieved Mrs. Swords of many of the more mundane tasks of the day. Wherever possible and logical, items have been chosen to reflect the period just prior to the Mexican



War, in contrast to nearby National Park areas which retell the period of the Civil War.

This writer is indebted to Associate Regional Director for Professional Support, John Kawamoto, former Regional Architect, Charles Lessig, now retired, and Historic Architect, Vance Kaminski, of the Midwest Regional Office for their assistance in writing this furnishing plan. Mr. Thomas Barr, who has done much of the archeological site work at Fort Scott, was most helpful and made the collections at the Kansas Historical Society available for study. The Branch of Museum Operations at Harpers Ferry made valuable suggestions and loaned the Bishop White House Appendixes, which provide insights into furnishings of this period. As work progresses on the now unfinished Officers' Quarters No. 1, new evidence may be discovered which will dictate changes in the proposed furnishing plan. The long continued use of the building and its transformation into a hotel, however, have obliterated much evidence that would have resolved questions that have occurred regarding the use of certain areas and the presence of shelving.

### The Front Porch or Gallery

This porch is wide and inviting. In the summer it provided relief from sultry Kansas days and in the evenings a place for the Swords to promenade. Since this will be introductory to the visitor's experience of the house, the area should be a pleasant one. It is recommended that the plants mentioned by Charlotte in one of her letters to Lieutenant Johnston be restored to the porch. Planted in separate packing boxes should be a Jasmine, <sup>1/</sup> two Mignonettes, <sup>2/</sup> and a cactus. The latter should be in bloom preferably. The packing boxes, which serve as planters, should be made of inch board and filled with local earth. On the sides of one or two of the boxes should be stenciled the words: Capt Thomas Swords, QMD, 1st Dragoons. All of the boxes used in a move would have been labeled as belonging to Swords; and no effort would have been made to disguise the stencil, when the boxes were converted to planters. The plants should be arranged to the left side of the doorway and between and underneath the windows.

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<sup>1/</sup> Jessamine or Jasmine, the American plant Gelsemium semper-virens, usually distinguished as Carolina or yellow jessamine.

<sup>2/</sup> Any of a genus of resedaceous herbs bearing racemes of greenish-white flowers.

### The First Floor Hallway

The first floor hallway is entered from the front porch and exits onto the back porch and yard. The area is lighted by double pane windows on either side of the doorway and by a seven pane light above the door. These leave the interior somewhat dim, since there are no windows along the east wall. Two doorways in the west interior wall give access to the parlor and dining rooms. Stairways lead to the upper and lower floors; and the trim and stairway bannisters are walnut. Apparently, this area, like the rest of the house, had whitewashed walls. There is no evidence to date that Mrs. Swords ordered then still somewhat rare wallpapers to use in Army quarters. Paper would have been an extravagance that she probably would have deemed neither necessary nor desirable in view of their transient life. The only known furnishing for this area is the bow that Mrs. Swords kept ready for the hunt. The following furnishings are recommended:

Table - To the left of the door leading into the parlor, a table should be set. The table should be a quartermaster-made piece used to receive the personal effects of callers and as a decorative area. The table should have a square or rectangular top, slightly overhanging a three inch skirt. The legs should be made of two inch by two inch board, tapering at the floor. The table should be made of walnut, which was readily available at the post. It probably would have been finished as the woodwork and mantels were. If a QMD table of this period can be acquired, it should be used; however, it may be necessary to reproduce the item.

Accessories - The table should be covered with a red damask cloth, c. 1840. Although tables appear both draped and uncovered in contemporary paintings, Mrs. Swords probably would have preferred to cover her home-made furniture. The edge of the cloth should be fringed and reach six to eight inches from the floor.

Charlotte Swords would have made an effort to have her table attractive. Items on the table probably changed with the seasons. Perhaps in the summer and spring vases of fresh wild flowers were set on the table; and in the fall brightly colored leaves of sumac, oak, etc. may have been arranged in pitchers and vases to use here. It is recommended that the table be changed seasonally. Vases and pitchers, c. 1840's, should be acquired and used in suitable arrangements.

A First Dragoon officer's hat and white gloves should be laid on the table. Presumably these have been placed here by an officer calling on the Swords. There is an overlapping of dress at this time; but it is the flat, soft, blue forage cap of the Mexican campaign that is to be used. This cap was distinctive to the Mexican War and establishes the period of refurbishing in visitors' minds. The insignia should be that of the dragoons, two sabers crossed. ~~WRONG~~ *UNIFORM BOARD*

Picture - Thomas Swords was an artist of some merit and some of his paintings probably were framed and hung in the house. It is recommended that a water color sketch or a painting or copies of the same be obtained. One of these should be hung over the table in the hall. *10/1851 1st substitution of submission and eagle to crossed sabers*

3/ H. A. Ogden and Henry Loomis Nelson, Uniforms of the United States Army (New York, 1959), 28 and Plate XVIII.

4/ Inquiries regarding a catalogue of Thomas Swords' works has been unproductive to date. It is hoped that at the time of actual furnishing the information will be available. *Howell + Klosser United States Army Headquarters to 1854*

*Campbell + Howell American Military Insignia 1800-1851 U.S. Nat'l Museum Bulletin 235 pp. 26 Fig. 41. Six pointed star as Dragoon officer insignia on forage cap 1830's - 1840's*

Chairs - As a convenience to visitors not well enough known to be ushered directly into the parlor, chairs would have been placed in the hallway. The chairs would have been used also by waiting enlisted men sent with messages to the captain. The chairs recommended should be part of the parlor set. These then could be taken into the parlor, when the need arose. Although a number of styles of fancy chairs were available at this period, the chair selected is a vase splat chair, with the back top rail rounded and the lower edge scroll cut. The uprights are plain and a continuation of the nearly square rear legs. The latter curve backward slightly. The front legs are flat and shaped in a reverse ogee curve with rounded front edges. The vase shaped splat is crotch-grained; and the seat is upholstered. Usually these were upholstered in black horsehair, and the wood was mahogany. The style of the chair may vary somewhat from the one recommended; but it is important that a sufficient number of matching chairs be acquired to suit the purposes of the house. In the hallway two chairs should be set along the east wall opposite the table.

Serving table - At the rear of the hallway between the dining room doorway and the northwest corner, a serving table should be placed. This would be used by the servants to place hot dishes on and for dishes removed from the table between courses. This table also should be a quartermaster-made table. The top should be approximately 26 inches by 18 inches, overhanging a three inch skirt. Square two by two inch legs should taper slightly at the bottom. The piece should be finished with the walnut stain used on the woodwork or stained quartermaster red. If an old table with the QM stamp can be found, it should be used. If none is available, the table should be reproduced in walnut, a wood readily available at Fort Scott.

Accessories - It is recommended that this table be left bare. Items that might be placed on the table would be subject to breakage or theft; and the table probably would have been cleared, when not in use at mealtimes.

5/ Edgar G. Miller, Jr., American Antique Furniture, I (New York, 1966), 230. The chair recommended is No. 348.

Indian relics - In one of her letters, Mrs. Swords writes that she has her bow strung and ready in the hall for the next hunt. Although she does not make mention of it, she probably had a quiver of arrows also. Two square nails should be driven into the east wall of the hallway opposite the stairs. From the nails should be hung a Plains Indian bow. Since Mrs. Swords states in her note that Indian things had been repugnant to her prior to reading Sir Charles Murray's novel, we must conclude the bow was a recent acquisition. Delaware and Potawattomie bands often camped near the post; but the bow could have been picked up by Captain Swords during one of his trips away from the post. Kansa, Otoe, Pawnee, Dakota-Sioux or Cheyenne are all possibilities of origin. The bow may be from any of the above tribes, if it is of the proper period. A quiver from the same tribe should be acquired and hung from one of the nails also. The latter should be rawhide with a painted design; and in it should be several flint or metal tipped arrows.

*definitely  
metal  
made in  
local masonry  
paints  
no stone*

Curtains - It is unlikely that Charlotte Swords would have bothered to curtain her entrance windows. Leaving the windows bare provided more light in what otherwise was a rather dark area. Some homes of this period did not have curtains, even in the formal rooms.

Carpets - No carpets or rugs are recommended for this area.

### The Parlor

In Officers' Quarters No. 1, the parlor could be entered from either the hallway or from the dining room. Two large six-pane, double-hung south windows admitted light. The overhanging porch kept the heat of summer rays from penetrating the room; and during cold spells the fireplace along the west wall provided warmth. The woodwork and mantel are walnut and in keeping with furniture styles of the 1840's period.

The parlor was an important room in any set of quarters. Hospitable army officers frequently invited fellow officers, new acquaintances, and old friends to their homes to relieve the tedium of their isolated situation. Their wives whiled away their days entertaining other ladies of the post at tea, sewing socials, and other amenities allowed them. Since the Swords were married in 1838, we may presume that many of the furnishings in their parlor were new and reasonably fashionable. The few extra pieces that were required could have been improvised by the post carpenter or one of the Swords' slaves. The following furnishings are recommended to interpret a parlor in army quarters, c. 1845:

Sofa - Although later army wives made do with sofas made from packing boxes and mattresses, Charlotte Swords probably acquired a parlor set at the time of her marriage. Thomas Swords was in a position to provide both public (government) and, from his own resources, private transportation for his household goods; and thus weight would not have been an obstacle, if Charlotte wished to be stylish at the new post.

The sofa recommended appears in Figure 144 <sup>6/</sup> of John Hall's The Cabinet Makers' Assistant. The back of the sofa is a double scroll, sloping from a high right side to a low left. The pillow arms are unequal in size and are supported by scrolls. Both the back and the seat are upholstered; and the feet are scrolls reinforced by brackets at the outer edges. A

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<sup>6/</sup> See Appendix, Section D, "Furnishing Plan for Officers' Quarters No. 1, Fort Scott, Kansas," 32.

popular wood used was mahogany. The upholstery should be a sturdy practical material, either black horsehair or leather. This sofa style came in several sizes, the one preferred is approximately five feet in length, so that it will fit comfortably between the south windows.

Accessories - On the sofa one or two small feather-filled pillows should be set. The covers of the pillows should be Berlin work, c. 1840's. Pillows were popular at this time and will help to make the sofa look less like an "antique" on display and more like a piece of furniture in use.

Candlestand - Beside the sofa, under the left window, a small table should be set. This might be a piece Mrs. Swords acquired from a transferring family and would not necessarily have to be of a "recent" style. The candlestand should date 1815-1840. In general these are pedestal tables, supported by three cuma-curved or scroll legs. The pedestal may have a slender vase-shaped column, sometimes pineapple carved or ball-and-ring carved. Tops were round, square or oblong, and these were made in mahogany, cherry, or maple.

Accessories - On the table a brass candlestick with a molded tallow candle should be placed. The holder should be nineteenth century, with heavy knobs. The stem knobs may be either round or cone-shaped; and the base should be square or rectangular, with the corners cut to make them octagonal. Candlesticks of this period usually are hollow.

Beside the candlestick, a small mosaic or shell box should be set. Often these were examples of the handwork of the hostess and were meant to be admired by guests.

When wild flowers are in bloom, a small bouquet might be set on the table in an appropriate pitcher or vase of the time.

7/ Thomas H. Ormstee, Field Guide to Early American Furniture (New York, 1951), No. 117, p. 164; or Miller, II, Nos. 1364, 1367, and 1371, pp. 729-730.

8/ Too breakable to move, hurricane glass is not recommended.



Chairs - Two side chairs should be placed in the parlor. One should be set against the west wall to the left of the fireplace; and the other should be set against the north wall to the right of the doorway. These chairs should be part of a set used in the hallway (see description on page 7).

Armchair - The armchair recommended is a Voltaire, which would have been light enough to transport yet provide comfort to the master of the house. The chair should be similar to the one appearing in Figure 147 in John Hall's The Cabinet Makers' Assistant<sup>9/</sup>. This is an open-arm easy chair with contour back. The arms are padded and are supported by scroll front rails. The rails supporting the back are a continuation of the legs, which have a slight outward curve. The front legs also may have a slight curve at the knee, or they may be vase-turned with balls and rings. The front legs rest on castors. Both the back and seat are upholstered; and it is recommended that the upholstery be a sturdy black or brown leather. The chair should be positioned to the side of the center table.

Center table - In the center of the room, a table should be set. This should be a circular-topped piece with hexagonal vase pillar on an oblong abacus base. The chamfered corners of the abacus are not turned under as scroll supports but are set onto the feet. This style appears in Hall's catalogue.

Accessories - The table should be covered by a cloth. This may be a colored Jacquard woven cover; or it may be damask. It should have a three to four inch fringe and date approximately 1845. Tables in contemporary pictures show both cloth covers and a bare surface; however, Mrs. Swords have have used a cover to conceal any scratches that might have occurred during moves.

The accessories on the table should be simple. Thomas Swords mentions in one of his letters that

<sup>9/</sup> See also Celia Jackson Otto, American Furniture of the Nineteenth Century (New York, 1965), Figure 215.

he is reading Charles Dickens' book, Notes on America. Since his father was in the publishing business, it may have been sent to him by his family. A copy of the book should be placed on the table; and interpreters should mention Thomas Swords' background and comments about the book. A silk bookmark, c. 1845, should be put between the pages to mark Thomas's last place.

Beside the book, a small box decorated with cut beads or with yarn, c. 1845, should be placed.

Card table - Card tables appear in many of the inventories of this period. Games of many types were used as entertainment; and the Swords probably had one. A card table, c. 1840, should be set against the north wall to the left of the doorway. The table should have a hinged folding top, which swivels on a pedestal base. The edge of the table top should be curved. The base should be base-shaped and rest on a platform or oblong abacus base with rising scroll feet attached at the corners. The scroll feet should be set on casters. Probably the table would have been made of mahogany.<sup>10</sup>

*Possible gaming devices - hand cut ivory dominoes or early playing cards.*

Accessories - The arrangement on the card table may be changed seasonally. During winter months, a Staffordshire figurine or pair of figurines might be set on the table. These might include a pair of equestrian figures or that of a "Young Lady," which date c. 1840. A Tucker urn or a French urn might be used. The former would be approximately 10½ inches high, with gold decorated handles, a gold painted base, and floral decorations around the bowl. In the summer, a vase filled with wild flowers native to Kansas might be placed on the table.

Bookcase - On the left side of the doorway leading into the hall, it is recommended that a wooden packing box be set. This would be used as a bookcase. Although regiments had their own libraries from which officers and enlisted men could borrow books, it is logical to assume that the Swords had a small library

<sup>10</sup>/ Ibid., Nos. 250 and 251.

of their own. The packing box should be approximately 18 to 20 inches wide and 24 inches high. It should be made of inch wood and be reinforced on the outside. Stenciled across one side should be the words: Capt Thomas Swords, QMD, 1st Dragoons. One shelf should be fitted across the inside of the case. The outside may be draped with dimity or muslin to make it more attractive. The material should be tacked over the top and overhang the front of the case. The material may be draped to the side to hang in soft folds.

We do not know what books the Swords owned; however the following are suggested for placement on the shelves:

Charles Dickens, Pickwick Papers  
                                  Oliver Twist  
Benjamin Disraeli, Vivian Grey  
Ralph Waldo Emerson, Essays (1840 and 1842)  
Nathaniel Hawthorne, Twice-told Tales (1837)  
William Hazlitt, Characters of Shakespeare's  
                                  Plays)  
Washington Irving, Sketch Book  
                                  History of New York by  
                                  Diedrich Knickerbocker  
Thomas Macaulay, Essays  
Edgar Allen Poe, Poems (1831)  
Alexander Pope, Essay on Man  
Sir Walter Scott, Ivanhoe  
                                  The Heart of Midlothian  
                                  The Lady of the Lake  
                                  Guy Mannering

The works of Shakespeare also would be appropriate. Charlotte Swords seems to have had a romantic streak; and she probably enjoyed Scott. All books should be 1845 or earlier editions.

✓  
Desk - Although Charlotte does not mention a desk specifically, she does write that letters have been written in the parlor.<sup>11/</sup> Captain Swords probably had a field desk, which he acquired prior to his marriage and may have used throughout his Army career. Portable field desks measure from 12 to 20 inches in length and from eight to 12 inches in width. The larger size

11/ "Section D, Furnishing Plan....," 8.

is preferred. The desk top and bottom are hinged, with the sides cut diagonally so that the open box has a slanted writing surface. Baize-covered flaps conceal the contents of each part. In the top there is space for writing paper, while the lower section has compartments for writing materials and sometimes even toilet accessories. A fitted ink bottle, sand shaker and pens are in compartments. Sometimes a larger box has a lower section with a false bottom, which provides space for a shallow full-width drawer inserted from the right. Drawers have inset brass handles with folding bails. The box edges are finished with narrow rounded brass strips; and the front has an inset brass keyhole escutcheon. The top usually has a brass plate, which may be initialed. Desks were made of crotch-grain mahogany, rosewood or black walnut veneer on pine<sup>12/</sup>.

Since the desk is portable, it is recommended that it be placed on a small stand of the type an army carpenter might make. This should be plain, with a top the approximate size of the desk. The legs should be straight, tapering slightly at the floor. A three to four inch skirt connecting the legs should be slightly recessed below the top. Although both oak and walnut were available at Fort Scott, Captain Swords probably would have chosen walnut to match the woodwork and fireplace mantels in the quarters. The table<sup>13/</sup> may be varnished to match the trim in the house or it may be stained Quartermaster red. *solid & not veneered if mahogany locally.*

Screen - In front of the fireplace a pole or fire screen should be set. These had a long history of popularity and were practical as well. Needlework and paintings of flowers often were used to decorate screens; and it has been pointed out that while the screen was not very useful, it was a decidedly ornamental object<sup>13/</sup> in a drawing room that displayed feminine skills. A screen easily might

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<sup>12/</sup> Ormsbee, No. 196, pp. 263-264.  
<sup>13/</sup> Miller, II, 844.

have been a gift to the Swords from one of the more talented members of the family at the time of their marriage. It is characteristic of this period that the width of the screen was greater than the height. Poles were quite plain, usually resting on a base supported by three scroll feet.<sup>14/</sup>

Fireplace - On the mantel should be set a number of items typical of this early Victorian period. In addition to candlesticks, "mantel ornaments" seem to have been popular. Unfortunately, the inventories seldom are specific in regard to the latter.<sup>15/</sup> The center of the mantel should be occupied by an arrangement of shell or feather flowers under a glass dome, c. 1845.

Candlesticks should be set at either end of the mantel. These should be cast iron with single candle sockets. The stems should terminate at the top in cast iron leaves or petals from which cut glass prisms or lusters are suspended. The bases of the stems may fit in reclining dogs or other animals, which sometimes are mounted on rectangular or square pieces of marble.<sup>16/</sup>

To the right of the candlesticks on the north side of the mantel, a brass or steel scissors-type snuffer and tray should be set.

Between the candlesticks and the center arrangement, two Oriental ginger jars should be set, if a pair can be found. These may be Imari, the Cloisonné style Rose Medallion, or Satsuma. If a pair is not available, perhaps a ginger jar and a vase or a box may be substituted. The Oriental ware is recommended to suggest the foreign trade in which the Cotheals dealt.

A grate which would hold either coal or wood should be set in the opening. This should be iron and represent something the post blacksmith could manufacture. To the left of the opening a pair of brass shovels and tongs should stand. No evidence of jam

<sup>14/</sup> Ibid., No. 1693, p. 343.

<sup>15/</sup> "Furnishing Plan for the Bishop White House Appendixes," Independence National Historical Park, Philadelphia (December, 1961), Appendixes Q, R, S, and T.

<sup>16/</sup> Alice Winchester, How to Know American Antiques (New York, 1952), 155.

hooks has been found to date.

Fireboard - In the winter wood and coal can be set in the fireplace grate. In the summer, however, a fireboard should be set against the opening. These boards were more than artistic, they also kept birds and squirrels from coming down a chimney and entering a room. Since Tom Swords was a painter of some merit, it is logical to assume he may have painted a simple scene or a still life on the front of a fireboard to please his wife.

Mirror - A mirror should be hung over the mantel. This should be an American Empire Tabernacle mirror, c. 1820-1840. The frame should be oblong, with top, bottom, and sides of applied half-round pilasters. The latter may be spirally reeded, acanthus-leaf carved, or vase-and-ring turned. Square projecting blocks trimmed with composition or stamped brass rosettes trim the corners. The upper glass panel usually is square and often painted with a landscape, naval engagement, or fruits and flowers. The larger lower glass is mirror. Made of gilded pine or mahogany, the baluster-turned pilasters and vase or cylinder sections frequently are painted black.

Pictures - Between the south windows, an oil painting, c. 1835, should be hung. The subject of the picture should be landscape, preferably a New York scene. A view of the Catskill Mountains around the West Point Military Academy or the Hudson River would be appropriate. The frame should be molded and gilded and of the same period as the painting.

Since photography was in its infancy, it is probable that the Swords had silhouettes of loved family members on their walls. A pair of silhouettes should be hung over the card table on the north wall. They may be framed in gilded or black frames and represent a man and a woman of the period c. 1828-1840.

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17/ Ormsbee, No. 285, p. 398.

Draperies - The draperies in the room should reflect an elegance in the home that was transported easily. Army wives mention that, in their parlors at least, their curtains were fashionable, and Mrs. Swords' probably were no exception. The draperies should be made of crimson moreen. The style should be similar to that pictured in the Joseph Meeks and Sons catalogue of 1833. Each window should have two panels hanging to the floor and pulled to the side between the middle sash and ledge. The ties may be made of the moreen material or of gold silk rope with tassels. Across the top, a swag should be draped over the curtain pole and allowed to hang approximately 16 to 24 inches on each side. Both the drape and the swag should be lined with muslin.

In a day in which window screen were not universally used and seldom provided by the Army, muslin pane curtains did duty as screening to keep out flies, mosquitoes and other unwelcome insects. At Fort Scott, mosquitos were particularly troublesome; and Charlotte Swords would have hung glass curtains at her windows to protect not only her draperies but also her furnishings from the unwelcome fly specks that were so difficult to remove. It is recommended that a single panel of glass curtain be hung at each window. These should be made of muslin and hang to the floor. They should be hemmed with inch hems at the top and bottom. During the winter when windows would have been closed, the panels may be pulled to one side, as illustrated in the Meeks' catalogue.<sup>18/</sup>

The draperies should be hung from walnut poles with wooden knob ends. The brackets should be brass. The muslin curtains should be hung from small brass telescope poles.

Floor covering - Army wives transported carpets from post to post, and although a luxury, these carpets seem to have added considerably to the comfort of their quarters. It is recommended that the carpet used in the Swords' parlor be Brussels, c. 1838.<sup>19/</sup>

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<sup>18/</sup> Otto, 114.

<sup>19/</sup> "Bishop White Appendixes," Appendix U.

Although it would be desirable to have the carpet stretch to the walls, Mrs. Swords' rugs would not have been pre-measured to fit her rooms at Fort Scott. The carpet, therefore, may be either smaller than the room or larger. If the latter, it should be folded under inconspicuously at one edge to fit the dimensions.

### The Dining Room

The dining room is a pleasant room on the north side of the building. Access was gained from the hallway and from the parlor. Two large six-pane, double-hung windows give light to the area. The porch that runs the length of the north side, however, cuts out some of this illumination. This porch overlooks the backyard with the various outbuildings, gardens, etc. that existed at the time of refurnishing. In the winter, a large fireplace along the west wall could be lighted to take the chill off the room.

Charlotte's letters indicate the Swords entertained a great deal. Both Tom and his wife seem to have been hospitable; and guests probably dined with them frequently. The only known furnishings of the room are the set of dishes Charlotte wrote she acquired when Mrs. Terrett broke up housekeeping. Many sherds of dishes have been found at Fort Scott, indicating a wide range in taste of patterns by the ladies of the post. In the collections of the Kansas Historical Society are fragments of Flow-Blue, Transfer, Sprig, Chelsea, Mocha, White Ironstone, Featheredge, Spatterware, etc. Many of these date to the 1840's. In addition, a few pieces of



silver and polished bone-handled, three-tine forks and knives have been found.<sup>20/</sup>

When refurnished the dining room should reflect a multi-purpose room. Inventories of the period indicate the dining area could be used as a "second" parlor or family room also. Musical instruments, such as pianos, are found in this area. Sofas or settees appear surprisingly often. Many styles of dining tables of this period were not large; and thus several tables appear in an inventory, indicating tables were put together or set separately, when larger crowds were expected.<sup>21/</sup> The following furnishings are recommended:

Dining table - The table recommended is similar to number 21 in the Meeks' catalogue. This table has a large hinged flap, which may be lowered when not in use. The top rests on an angular vase pillar with an abacus base. The chamfered corners of the pillar are extended to form scroll supports. The skirt of the top is cyma curved, except at the corners. The latter are plain and conform to the rounded edge of the top.<sup>22/</sup>

Accessories - Unless the table is set for dining purposes, it should not be covered by a cloth. The hinged leaf, however, may be up.

Chairs - It is recommended that a set of eight "Hitchcock" style chairs, c. 1830-1843, be acquired. Six of these should be set in the dining room. In general, this style chair is painted black. The seat, front legs, stretchers and back are colored in stencil designs of gold, bronze, and colors.

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20/ A definitive report of archeological investigation at Fort Scott will give additional clues as to dishes in use at the post.

21/ "Bishop White Appendixes," Inventories Q and U.

22/ Otto, No. 253.

The legs are rounded, with horizontal reeding on some parts, often tapering to a small ball foot. The uprights supporting the back are cut flat to permit stenciling. Seats may be rush, cane or solid.<sup>23/</sup> Two chairs should be set at either end of the table; two chairs should be set on either side of the east doorway; and one chair should be placed beneath each of the two north windows.

High chair - In the southwest corner of the room, a youth or high chair should be set. This would have been used by one of the Swords' children. The chair recommended is a Hitchcock style chair, made of pine, maple or hickory. It may be painted red, yellow, or to simulate bamboo; and it may have a stenciled design on the top rail. The elongated legs may be turned in the front and braced by double stretchers at the side and single stretchers at the front and back. The arms may be round or flattened; and above the front stretcher there may be a foot rest for the child using it. Seats of these high chairs are found in both rush and solid.<sup>24/</sup>

Side table - Between the north windows a serving table should be placed. This table does not have to be as fashionable as other pieces of furniture owned by the Swords. It may be an older style, which Charlotte purchased from a departing officer or received from her parents. The table should have an oblong top with square corners and be approximately 36 to 48 inches wide. In the table recommended, two tiers of drawers are fitted in a plain base below the top. The drawers have brass lion's head plates with pendant rings or brass rosette knobs. The legs are turned and reeded, ending in small brass paw or ball feet. Eight to six inches from the floor, there should be a shelf. This piece usually is found in mahogany and dates c. 1800-1820.<sup>25/</sup>

Accessories - On the lower shelf of the side table, a fitted liquor case should be set. Decanters and glasses are numerous in the inventories of this period of suspect water; and this type of case would

<sup>23/</sup> Miller, I, Nos. 343, 344, and 345, p. 227; and Ormsbee, No. 42, pp. 84-85.

<sup>24/</sup> Katharine Morrison McClinton, Antiques of American Childhood (New York, 1970), 147.

<sup>25/</sup> Ormsbee, No. 110, p. 157.

have been very practical for the Swords to transport. Made of mahogany or rosewood, these were fitted with compartments in which cut glass decanters for wine and other liquors were set. Wine glasses or tumblers were fitted in other spaces. The case should be closed and placed on the shelf.

A large Blue Transfer or Flow Blue tureen should be displayed on the table top. Flow Blue was very popular at this time; and sherds of Flow Blue have been discovered at the site. "Scinde" would be an appropriate pattern to acquire. This handsome pattern was made by J. & G Alcock, c. 1839-1846. A partial list of other patterns and their makers appears in the appendices; and if a tureen in "Scinde" cannot be located, perhaps one of the others can be substituted. The tureen should be one of three pieces consisting of the tureen, platter or tray, and ladle.

Settee - To the right of the fireplace, a small window seat or settee without a back should be placed. These were small seats which had arms in the form of chair backs, giving the appearance of two chairs facing each other. The style recommended is in the late American Empire style, c. 1830-1840. The legs curve outward and terminate in a scroll. The back is supported by outward curving uprights which terminate in a rosette. The rail is wood and plain. Both the seat and the backs are upholstered. In the Swords' case, a sturdy material would have been desirable.

Guitar - No mention is made in the letters of musical instruments; however, it is recommended that a guitar, c. 1830-1845, be leaned against the small backless settee.

Fireplace - The items on the mantel should be practical. Not placed particularly for "show" these items would be in daily use. At the far left, it is recommended that a candlestick with a tallow candle be set. The candlestick may be pewter, Britannia, or brass; and it should date 1820-1845. Beside it should be set a spoon holder or goblet in which spills are placed. Spills were used to light candles, cigars, fires, etc.; and these were made of twisted paper. In the 1840's pressed glass began to be made in complete

26/ Miller, I, No. 535, pp. 301-302.

27/ "Bishop White Appendixes," Inventory U.

table settings. Early patterns include Ashburton, Excelsior, Argus, Colonial, Pillar, Diamond Thumbprint, Loop, Flute, Bigler, Huber, and Victoria. Of course, cut and engraved glass also was available; however, it is recommended that a spoon holder in the Ashburton or similar early pattern be acquired. A number of paper spills should be set in the holder.

To the right of the spill holder a cigar box should be set. This should be a rather nice box of rosewood or mahogany with brass rimmed keyhole. Undoubtedly, Tom Swords could have offered his male guests cigars after dinner and the ladies' retiring.

In the center of the mantel, a black lacquer papier-maché or composition serving tray should be stood upright. The tray may be octagonal or oblong and may or may not have pierced rims for carrying. The edge and center should be stenciled or hand painted in a floral design. The number of trays or "waiters" inventoried is surprising; but unquestionably they were deemed useful.

A lacquer papier-maché hand screen, c. 1840, should be laid on the mantel in front of the tray in the winter. These decorative little screens often had hand painted panels and short ivory handles. Ladies used them to protect their complexions from the heat of the fireplace. In the summer a fan of the same period may be substituted.

To the far right of the mantel, several decanters and glasses should be set. In the Ashburton pattern, pint, quart, and three pint decanters were made. Decanters of the period come in many styles. Some have fluted bases, etched or cut shoulders, three-ring necks, and fancy stoppers, such as the mushroom stopper. If the fitted liquor case is purchased with its contents intact, the bottles from it should be used. If not, decanters and wines of the period 1830-1845 should be selected.

In the fireplace opening, a grate similar to that recommended for the parlor should be placed. Beside the fireplace, a hearth brush, an iron shovel and a

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28/ Illid., Inventories R to U.

29/ Mary Peter, Collecting Victoriana (New York, 1969), 32.

pair of tongs with brass handles, c. 1840, should be set.

Tea set - Mrs. Swords bought a set of dishes from Mrs. Terrett. We do not know the pattern; but it must have been elegant enough to induce Charlotte to make the purchase. One of the patterns discovered among the sherds at Fort Scott was Chelsea; and the use of this pattern in the furnishing plan is recommended. Chelsea was manufactured after 1830 by a number of companies, including Allerton, Aynsley, Adams, Bridgwood & Son, Adderly, Morris, Sampson Smith, Adams and Wood. The body is white and decorated with small sprigs varying in shade from pale lavender to deep purple-blue. Often the decoration is brushed with lustre. Grapevine, thistle, and hawthorne sprays were early favorites. Tea sets consisted of two tea-pots, two cake plates, a waste bowl, creamer, sugar-bowl, twelve tea plates, cups and saucers, egg-cups, sauce dishes, platters, and cup plates.<sup>30/</sup>

It is recommended that a tea set in Chelsea, consisting of a tea-pot, a cake plate, a waste bowl, creamer, sugar-bowl, three cups and saucers, and three plates, be placed on a tole or papier-maché tray on the dining table. Also on the tray should be several silver spoons and fine linen napkins, c. 1838. The items on the tray should look as if tea were about to be or had been served to Mrs. Swords' callers. Sugar should be placed in the bowl; there should be cream in the pitcher; and cake or cake crumbs should be on the cake plate. Chelsea sets were made in a variety of styles; but here the octagonal pieces are preferred.

Pictures - Over the side table between the windows, a picture should be hung. This may be one of the delicate water color sketches of baskets of flowers or fruits, suitably mounted in a molded gilt frame, that were popular about this time.

To the left of the doorway leading into the parlor, a second picture should be hung. This may be either a landscape painted on velvet or a copper-plate etching, c. 1838. Whichever is selected should be in a frame of the period.

30/ Mary L. Jackson, If Dishes Could Talk (Des Moines, 1971), 79-81.

Sewing table - Beneath the picture recommended for the south wall, a sewing table or stand should be set. These were made for a long period of time and are similarly made. The one recommended is in the transition period, c. 1825-1835. The top is plain and slightly overhanging. The carcass has two drawers. The upper drawer is rounded, and the lower drawer of contrasting wood is straight. The pulls are plain wooden knobs. The legs are carved square blocks, which become large, <sup>31/</sup>carved acanthus leaves tapering toward the floor.

Accessories - On top of the table, a sewing basket should be set. In the basket may be placed mending-- socks, a man's shirt, or children's clothing, c. 1845-- or yarn rolled in balls for knitting and needles. Women's hands seldom were idle, when they sat; and Charlotte would have been no exception. Undoubtedly she was kept busy providing clothing for her family in the days before the sewing machine.

Curtains - The windows should be draped in the same manner as those in the parlor are.

Carpet - Both Brussels and Ingrain carpets appear in the inventories of the day.<sup>32/</sup> There were other kinds of carpets; but these seem to have been popular. Ingrain, which was double woven and reversible, would have been practical for an army wife to own. It is recommended that an Ingrain carpet be laid on the dining room floor. This may be geometric, stylized floral, scroll or arabesque in pattern; but it should date c. 1838. Size is not particularly important. There is no reason to believe the carpet would have conformed to the dimensions of the room. It may be smaller than the floor; or, like that in the parlor, it may be larger and tucked under at one edge. To prevent wear, Ingrain carpets usually were laid over newspaper or straw and tacked to the floor. Padding of this type probably should be used here under the carpet selected.

<sup>31/</sup> Miller, II, No. 1620, p. 820. A pedestal style sewing table with drop leaves also would be suitable and may be substituted.

<sup>32/</sup> "Bishop White Appendixes," Inventories P to U.

## Second Floor Hallway

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There is little reason to believe that Charlotte Swords would have had furnishings in the second floor hall, since this was simply the means of access to her bedrooms and closets. The only furnishing recommended for the area is an artist's easel, c. 1830, which Tom Swords, who was an artist of some merit, might have used during leisure moments. The easel may be folded and placed in the southeast corner waiting to be used. A linen painter's rag might be tied to the frame.

The floor, like that below, should be left uncovered; and the single window in the east wall probably would have been left curtainless.

## Closets

At either end of the hallway there are two rooms, which were intended either to be used as closets or possibly servants' quarters. In the latter case, they would have been without both air and light. (The story about one of the rooms being used as a cell for prisoners seems to have developed at a later date and is not pertinent to the Swords' occupancy.) It will be presumed for purposes of this furnishing study that the rooms were used as closets; and these closets may or may not be furnished at the discretion of the area.

If a closet is furnished, a four inch board with pegs driven in at intervals should be nailed around the walls

approximately five and one-half feet off the floor.<sup>33/</sup> On the pegs should be hung a heavy winter overcoat (man's), a Paisley shawl, several winter dresses, a heavy black wool woven shawl, and other items of clothing of the period. A horse-hide trunk, a carpet bag made of Venetian carpeting, and a large packing box also could be set on the floor. The bath tub used by the family would be stored in here also between baths. Children's clothing and a slave's pallet could be stored in the closet at the north end; but it is doubtful the furnishings would justify the expense or add that much to a visitor's experience of the house.

#### Master Bedroom

The master bedroom is a large sunny room that faces south and overlooks the parade ground. Although the single window in the room is a dormer window, the pitch of the roof is such that there is very little lost space under the projecting ceiling. The room may be entered from the hallway and from the adjoining bedroom. A large commodious fireplace provided warmth during the winter months. The woodwork and the mantel are walnut.

Presumedly, this is the room the Swords occupied and which they surrendered temporarily to Mrs. Terrett and her son, Burdette, after Captain Terrett's death. Although

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<sup>33/</sup> It is recommended that only one closet be furnished, if a decision to refurnish the closets is made.



Charlotte mentions having other house guests, it is only during the prolonged stay of the Terretts that she seems to have moved their bedroom elsewhere in the house. The following furnishings are recommended to interpret the room, as it was occupied by Thomas and Charlotte Swords:

Bed - Since Thomas Swords had been in the army for some time prior to his marriage, it is to be presumed that he was able to advise his wife during their selection of furniture for army quarters. Knowing the limitations of transportation, Swords probably suggested that the furniture be kept light as possible. With this in mind, they may have avoided some of the more massive beds available and selected a three-quarter-high post bed, which did not have a tester. These beds measure from four feet six inches to five feet eight inches in height. The posts are either vase-and-ring turned, terminating in ball, urn, or cone shape finials or are acanthus leaf carved and terminate in urn or pineapple carved finials. Below the rails, the posts are turned a vase shape, either plain or leaf-carved, and end in small peg feet. The headboard may have a straight upper edge with voluted ends or a carved and pierced cresting. A matching foot may or may not be present; and to make the bed less bulky, the Swords may well have eliminated the elaborate footboard. Beds may be found in mahogany, maple, cherry or birch.<sup>34/</sup>

Accessories - The bed should have a straw-filled mattress and two feather pillows.

During this period, one of the most important features of a bedroom was the quilt that covered the bed. Its bright colors and pattern dominated the room; and women took great pride in the covers that were part of their dower chests at the time of their marriage. Not only did quilts provide beauty but they also served a very practical purpose--that of warmth. It is recommended that a quilt dating c. 1835-1840 be placed on the bed. The quilt should be bright and in good condition. Although puffed white covers were in use about this

*Antique type*

time, the quilt preferred should be made of bright scraps on a white background. "Tea Rose," "Rose Tree," "Martha Washington's Wreath," "Conventional Tulip," "Mexican Rose," "Whig" or "Democrat Rose," "Rose of Sharon," "Mountain Laurel," and "Peonies" are but a few of the vivid patterns that date to this early period. All are rather sophisticated and might have been selected by Charlotte.<sup>35/</sup>

Chest of Drawers - There are several styles of chests that would be suitable for this particular room. The one selected is a bow-front chest of drawers in the American Empire style, c. 1800-1840. The carcass has three-quarter round pilasters, spirally reeded and ring-turned. These extend into turned legs. Usually there are four graduated drawers, the fronts of which are fitted with brass rosettes, pressed glass or mushroom-turned wooden knobs, and oval or oblong keyhole escutcheons. The top has outrounded front corners and a rounded edge. It may be found with a smaller case containing two shallow drawers, behind which is a backboard with voluted ends. These chests were made in mahogany with crotch-grain veneer, cherry, maple or birch.<sup>36/</sup> The chest of drawers should be set against the north wall to the left of the doorway.

Accessories - On top of the dresser a bone-handled brush with natural bristles, a comb, and a scent or cologne bottle should be set.<sup>37/</sup> The scent bottle may be cut or pressed glass, enameled, or Bristol glass with a hand painted decoration. Since these are rare, it is left to the discretion of the curator to choose a bottle of the period. A pair of white or black lace mitts and a small silk drawstring bag, which would belong to Charlotte, should be set on the chest also.

Wardrobe - Although there are what are presumed to

<sup>35/</sup> Carrie A. Hall and Rose G. Kretsinger, The Romance of the Patchwork Quilt in America (New York, 1935).

<sup>36/</sup> Orasbee, Nos. 158 or 159, pp. 208-211.

<sup>37/</sup> Fragments of combs and brushes have been found at the site.

be closets in the hall, the Swords probably had a wardrobe for their own use in the bedroom. The wardrobe would have been more convenient to use, especially during darkness, and would have permitted storage in the hall closets. The wardrobe recommended is similar to the one appearing in Hall's The Cabinet Maker's Assistant. It is quite plain. The carcass has square pilasters upholding an arch that surmounts the case. The arch is squared off at the top and finished with molded cornice. The feet of the pilasters are volutes. The volutes are repeated at the top of the pilasters. The wardrobe has two doors with recessed panels. There are recessed panels on each side also. The style of the piece is simple enough to have been handled by the same cabinet maker that finished the mantels in the quarters, although any crotch-grain veneer probably would have been eliminated. A Quarter-master piece of the period should be used, if possible; however, a wardrobe, c. 1840, that follows the above guidelines may have to be substituted.

Accessories - It is not necessary to display the contents of the wardrobe, since this adds nothing to the interpretation of the quarters. Should it become desirable, several gowns, a shawl, and a uniform of the period could be hung inside. Small muslin bags of lavender or scented herbs should be placed with the clothing.

Washstand - A washstand should be placed under the south window. The one recommended is from an earlier period and represents a piece that might have been acquired from a departing army family at Fort Leavenworth. The washstand is square with Sheraton style legs and feet. The sides of the splash board are cut in curves, but the back is plain and has a wide shelf. The four legs are reeded in a vase form. A single drawer about 12 inches from the floor has lion-and-ring handles. The piece dates c. 1800-1820.<sup>38/</sup>

Accessories - On the shelf of the washstand, a

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<sup>38/</sup> Miller, II, No. 1731, p. 859.

soap dish and a shaving mug, with a natural bristle shaving brush inside, should be set. Both the soap dish and the shaving mug should be Mocha, a ware that has been found during archeological investigations of the post. Mocha was a common ware. Although made earlier, it was advertised in New York in 1825 as<sup>39</sup> being produced in mugs, chambers, and bowls. Mocha is a creamware decorated with seaweed, tree silhouettes and other brush patterns and bands of black, white, or other colors on backgrounds of tan, terra cotta, and blue. No soap should be placed in the soap dish. This will be used elsewhere.

A wash bowl and pitcher should be set in the opening in the stand top. Since a Mocha wash set may be difficult to locate, we will presume some breakage has occurred; and the Swords have replaced part of their set with a Flow-Blue bowl and pitcher. Scinde or any of the Flow-Blue patterns produced prior to 1845 may be used. A matching chamber may be set beneath the bed.

A small pile of homespun towels should be folded neatly on the shelf below.

Mirror - Because Tom Swords would have needed the best light possible to shave by, he probably hung his mirror<sup>40</sup> on the west wall projecting outward from the window. The mirror recommended has a single panel of mirror glass contained in an oblong molded frame with mitered corners. The frame would be from two to five inches wide, faced with crotch-grain mahogany, and either ogee-molded or beveled. It should be approximately 22 inches by 14 inches; and it should be hung at an average man's height, although Charlotte would have used the mirror also.

Trunk - Although there is a wardrobe in the room, Charlotte may have kept a small horsehide or cowhide trunk in her room in which to store extra quilts, shawls, etc. A trunk of this type, with leather straps and brass lock, c. 1840, should be set on the floor to the left of the fireplace and beneath the eaves.

<sup>39/</sup> Katharine Morrison McClinton, Antique Collecting for Everyone (New York, 1951), 3.

<sup>40/</sup> Although sideburns were long, officers generally were smooth shaven.

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Hat boxes - Charlotte Swords would have had several bonnets to wear; and these would have been stored when not in use in hat boxes. Wallpaper bandboxes had a long history of popularity. Made of cardboard or nailed wooden boxes of shavings, the bandbox usually was covered with two designs of wallpaper. One wallpaper covered the lid; and a second wallpaper was used on the sides, leaving a pleasing effect. Historical scenes, mythological, oriental, and pastoral scenes, animals and hunting scenes, flowers and birds--all were subjects used in the wallpapers. Because of the difficulty in acquiring hat boxes, the decoration on the box is not specified; however, the boxes selected should date 1830-1838. If scenic wallpaper is used, New York City and State scenes are preferred. Several boxes will be needed. A leather hat box, c. 1835, in which Captain Swords might have kept a civilian hat of the period might also be used. The latter case conforms to the shape of the hat and has a leather strap and buckle to close the lid.

Chair - In the bedroom one chair that is part of the set recommended for the dining room should be set. Undoubtedly these chairs were used where needed and brought to the dining room when additional guests were expected. Although the chair normally might set near the fireplace, it should be pushed aside to make room for the bathtub, which will be used.

Table - A small table also should be pushed aside in the room. The table should be small, approximately 14 inches square, and resemble other "QMD" tables recommended for the house.

Accessories - On the table a large homespun linen towel and a bar of homemade soap should be laid ready for use.

Bathtub - To get away from the formality of period rooms, it is recommended that an activity be in progress in the bedroom. Captain Swords was absent on field trips occasionally and must have returned dirty

and weary, after days of riding over Kansas prairies. He must have looked forward to a hot bath and clean clothes upon his arrival; and it is not hard to imagine the servants hurrying with buckets of hot water to his room. The tub probably was a Japanned tin sit bath, which became popular in the early nineteenth century. High in the back, these graduated to a low front with a rolled edge. A short cone-shaped base supported the tub. The 24 inch diameter size is preferred.

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Accessories - Beside the tub on the floor should be set a wooden bucket, which would be used to fill the tub. The bucket should be cedar with black ash or hickory hoops and a bail handle.

Two homespun towels should be laid on the floor around the tub to catch water spills.

Uniform - To add interest to the setting and highlight the military aspects of the quarters, it is suggested that parts of Captain Swords' uniform and accouterments have been removed; and he has left the room dressed in his trousers, shirt, and boots. He has hung his uniform coat, however, over the back of the chair; and on the bed he has laid his black saddlebags, sword, belt and sash.

In 1841 the campaign dress of modern times was introduced, although there continued to be an overlapping of styles up to the Mexican War. Officers wore the modern frock coat, which was single breasted. Shoulder straps as we have them today were introduced by the order of 1835. <sup>42/</sup>Collars were plain and belts were black leather. The coat should look rather dusty. If a uniform of the period is available, it should be used. If not, it may be necessary to have one reproduced.

Fireplace - The mantel should have a number of items on it and a rather cluttered look. To the

left, an artist's box of paints should be set. The box should be wood with a small brass hook to fasten it. It may have brass guides through which straps slip to fasten the box securely. Beside the box should be laid a woman's riding crop, which Charlotte would have used when she "hunted" with her husband. In the center of the mantel, a Staffordshire pottery figure, c. 1840, should be placed. Subjects produced in this ware are too numerous to name here. Birds, shepherdesses, animals, fruits, all were pleasing subjects (see Appendix). Next, a lacquer papier-maché box for Charlotte's jewelry and trinkets should be set. Beside this a brass chamber candlestick with candle may be placed. The candlestick should have an attached saucer with carrying handle. In the saucer, a brass cone-shaped snuffer may be placed. At the extreme right, a Book of Common Prayers, c. 1845 or earlier, should be laid. Thomas and Charlotte Swords were married in the Episcopal Church, and in one of her letters she mentions reading the beautiful prayers of her church to the grieving Mrs. Terrett. Charlotte probably kept her prayer book in her bedroom to read in the morning and perhaps before retiring.

In the fireplace, itself, a grate should be set. This should be similar to the ones recommended previously. Beside the fireplace opening, a turkey wing hearth brush and a pair of iron tongs should be set.

Candle sconce - To the left of the doorway leading into the north room, a candle sconce with fluted tin reflector should be hung. A partially burned tallow candle may be set in the holder.

Picture - The picture hung over the bed may be either a copy of a sketch executed by Thomas Swords or a painting done on velvet anonymously. If an original by Swords can be obtained, it should be used.

Curtains - No curtains are recommended for the window in this room. It is placed in the elevation at a height that would have ensured all the privacy the Swords needed. The absence of curtains would have permitted more light in the room also. Although shades and Venetian blinds could be purchased and were used at this time, these would have had to be ordered and fitted to the room; and it is doubtful that Charlotte, who anticipated a new move at any time, would have gone to the expense and bother of obtaining them.

Carpets - No carpet is recommended for the floor of this room. A throw rug, however, may be placed beside the left side of the bed. This should be hooked and date c. 1838. Charming rugs were made during this period from wool and cotton rags and from wool yarn. Hooked rugs in the early nineteenth century often had a natural motif in the center and a rather wide scroll or floral border. Cats, dogs, or other animals were favorite subjects. The rugs were both clipped and looped.<sup>43/</sup>

#### The Children's Bedroom

Although reversed, the north bedroom is a duplicate of the south bedroom. Only the fireplace detail differs. For some reason, in this room the fireplace opening was blocked out and made unusable with brick.

If the children of the Swords existed, they probably occupied the bedroom adjacent to their parents'. Mrs. Swords may have used portions of the room as a schoolroom in which to tutor her eldest child.<sup>44/</sup> Letters of both the Swords indicate an enjoyment of literary pursuits; and they would not

<sup>43/</sup> Harold Donaldson Eberlein and Abbot McClure, The Practical Book of American Antiques (New York, 1948), 385-390.

<sup>44/</sup> At Fort Atkinson on the Missouri, a soldier was assigned to teach the children; but there is no record of this at Fort Scott.



have permitted their children to go unschooled. At times the children may have been billeted elsewhere and the room turned over to house guests, such as Lieutenant Johnston.

The following furnishings are recommended to suggest the bedroom of two small boys, aged six and two and one-half. The children slept and played with their toys here; and here Charlotte conducted a few hours of class for her older boy. Toys of this period are relatively simple; however, indulgent grandparents may have sent a few more elaborate toys from New York to their grandchildren.

Bed - The bed recommended is a modified sleigh bed, c. 1820-1834. The headboard is somewhat higher than the footboard; and both have plain panels and top rails. The uprights are cyma-curved terminating in scrolls. Perpendicular incised lines decorate the uprights. The legs of both headboard and footboard end in modified scrolls and rest on casters. The recessed panel of the headboard has gadroon edging.<sup>45/</sup> Both children would have occupied this double bed, which should be set against the east wall.

Accessories - The bed should have a straw mattress and two feather pillows.

A Jacquard-woven coverlet should be pulled over the mattress and pillows. One of New York provenance would be appropriate. This may be either blue and white or red, green, and white. The coverlet probably should date no later than 1838; and many Jacquard-woven coverlets have the date woven in the corner. Since the cover-

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<sup>45/</sup> Otto, No. 261.

let came with a summer and winter side, it is recommended that the side for the appropriate season be turned for visitors to see.

Chest of Drawers - The Swords were the first occupants of the quarters, and the furnishings provided by the Quartermaster must have been tailored to their needs. Since the children were little, a wardrobe may not have been deemed necessary for the room. Clothing worn by the boys could be laid in drawers or hung in the hall closet.

A chest of drawers is recommended to be set to the left of the fireplace. The one selected dates c. 1820-1840. The chest has a slightly overhanging oblong top, 38 to 44 inches wide, with a veneer-faced top or rounded edge. The carcass has a frieze that projects about two inches and contains a full-width drawer, sometimes eight to 10 inches deep. The frieze is supported at the corners by tapering columns, three to four inches in diameter, that are crotch-grain veneered or by acanthus-leaf carved pilasters. The columns or pilasters rest on square plinths and flank three full-width graduated drawers. The drawer fronts are fitted with brass rosettes, pressed glass or mushroom-turned wooden knobs. The carcass is supported by either tall paw feet with acanthus-leaf carved knees at front and turned legs at rear or by four tall turned legs, three to four inches in diameter with ring turnings and sometimes reeded. This style was made in mahogany, with crotch-grain veneer, cherry or maple with vase-and-ring turned columns or carved pilasters of curly maple.<sup>46/</sup>

Washstand - Under the north window a washstand should be placed. The washstand may be similar to the one recommended for the master bedroom or a light open washstand, c. 1840. If the latter, it would be made of maple or birch with a rectangular top slightly overhanging the base. A drawer with either a mushroom-turned wooden knob or brass pendent-ring handle may be present

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<sup>46/</sup> Ormsbee, No. 160, pp. 210-211.

in the skirt beneath the top. On the sides of the top there should be scroll arms connected by dowels to a plain or slightly curved back on which towels could be hung. The legs should be plain or baluster-turned with small ball or peg feet. Approximately ten to twelve inches from the floor there may be a small shelf.

Accessories - Over the top of the washstand, a huck towel should be laid to catch any spilled water. A metal basin, which the boys would use for washing, would be set on top of the towel. Beside the basin, a small Flow-Blue soap dish, similar to the Scinde pattern, should be set; and in it there should be a bar of home-made soap. A linen or a huck towel should be hung over each of the arms. These may be plain or have a small woven design near the hem. A water pitcher matching the soap dish should be set on the lower shelf.

Table - Near the center of the room, a table should be set. This would have been used by Charlotte to teach her son. The table should be plain and similar to the tables recommended for the master bedroom and desk in the parlor. The top should be rectangular and approximately 30 inches long and 18 inches deep. The top should overhang a straight three inch skirt. The splayed legs should be straight and slightly tapering toward the floor. It should be finished as the other tables.

Accessories - A slate set in a wooden frame, a piece of chalk, a white linen rag to use as a chalk eraser, and a pencil box, c. 1840, should be set on the table. A copy of the 1836 edition of a First McGuffey Reader should be open and placed in front of the teacher's chair. The 1836 edition is the first of the McGuffey's series and rare. It may be possible to obtain a reproduction, however, to use here.

Chair - At the side of the table a chair that is

47/ Thomas H. Ormsbee, Field Guide to American Victorian Furniture (New York, 1952), No. 232, pp. 303-304. References to Ormsbee are to Early American Furniture, unless otherwise specified.

*Printed cardboard  
Bottle case 1840  
Possibly a copy of  
Fishers NY  
First Drawing  
Book 1840-45  
Philadelphia?*

*SLATE  
PENCIL?*

part of the set used in the dining room should be placed for the teacher's convenience.

Child's chair - A smaller chair for the student to occupy during his lessons should be set near the east wall. This may be one of the popular Hitchcock-type chairs produced for young people early in the nineteenth century. The chair may be a combination of pine, maple, hickory and poplar, painted yellow. Markings painted on the spindles, uprights, legs, and stretchers in a darker color simulate bamboo. The seat should be solid wood, possibly saddle-shaped. The top rail may be two dowels, open between, with a small wooden insert in the center, or it may be a solid piece that is stenciled. The chair should be armless.<sup>48/</sup>

Toys - Toys should be scattered about the room. Indulgent grandparents, as well as moderately well-to-do parents, would have provided the children with playthings, although children of this period did not have quantities of toys to amuse themselves with, as later generations have had.

A pull toy should be set on the floor between the table and the bed. This should be a carved and painted horse, c. 1845, and mounted on a platform with wheels. It should have a cord by which it may be pulled.<sup>49/</sup>

A jumping jack, c. 1840's, should be suspended over the boys' bed from a square nail. The jumping jack may be a color print on cardboard or one of the wooden ones being made in small factories in New England, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Hampshire at this time.<sup>50/</sup>

On the hearth of the fireplace, several toys should be placed. Not only would the children's mother have set items here to get them "off the floor," but this would be a natural platform on which children would delight in playing. Captain Swords probably

<sup>48/</sup> McClinton, Antiques of American Childhood, 147.  
<sup>49/</sup> Ibid., 250.  
<sup>50/</sup> Ibid., 280.

brought blocks of wood from the saw mill and from the buildings that were being constructed to his boys to use. It is recommended that oak and walnut "blocks" of wood, some conforming to the woodwork patterns of the quarters, be arranged on the hearth to form a fort. At the top of the fort, a small United States flag, with the correct number of stars and stripes for the period, should be set. This may be made of paper with pencil, as a child might do.

Approaching the fort might be a small tin toy, such as a cart pulled by a goat. Tin toys were painted in bright colors and highly popular. Nearby might be a squeak toy. These consisted of a figure of wood, papier-maché or composition fastened to a thin wooden platform with bellows beneath. The bellows produced the squeak. Squirrels, rabbits, birds, cats, etc. were popular with the children.<sup>51/</sup>

On the fireplace mantel, a Jack-in-the Box should be set. The ones at this period had either papier-maché or wooden heads and hands. The bodies were dressed in calico; and the boxes were covered with wallpaper.<sup>52/</sup> A small wooden top may be laid beside the box.

*clear, aqua,  
ultramarine  
and others  
to a lesser degree  
were the principal  
glass types of  
this period or  
mediants. TB*

At the far right on the mantel, (an olive green or dark bottle) preferably molded in a wooden mold, should be set. The bottle probably held a home-made medicine of time-honored family use for sick children. The bottle should have a cork stopper; and a paper label, tied by a string around the neck, should indicate the contents. Beside the bottle, a child's mug should be set. These were extremely popular and bore transfer pictures or inscriptions. "A present for Mary," "A Present for my dear boy," or verses with decorations were used on creamware mugs made before 1840 by Enoch Wood; but many companies made these small size mugs for children.

Toy box - Against the north wall to the left of

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<sup>51/</sup> Ibid., 281.  
<sup>52/</sup> Ibid., 276-277.

the washstand, a packing box used as a toy box should be set. This should be pine, with wooden braces on the outside. The wood should be inch board, and the lid should be down.

*Double wick lamps were also used in this period some of which are quite attractive.*  
*Also lampshades were used prior to the 1850's.*  
Lighting - Fire was an ever present danger in early homes, where lighting was by candles. It is doubtful that the Swords would have allowed a candlestick and candle to be left in the room unattended by an adult. The only visible lighting that is recommended is a tin sconce, similar to that in the master bedroom, which should be hung to the right of the east doorway near and above the boys' bed. This would have been lit during sick vigils or when a parent was summoned during the night.

Curtains - No curtains are recommended for this room. The children probably rose at daylight, when their parents awoke and were put to bed at dusk.

Floor covering - A small woven rag carpet should be placed at the side of the children's bed. The rug may be made of wool or cotton rags, but the latter is preferred. The strip should be approximately three feet wide and five feet long. The pattern may be varicolored.

#### The Basement Hallway

The lower hallway has a window looking toward the parade ground; and a door in the rear leads to the backyard. The lower hallway probably was much used and would have been kept clear of encumbrances during the daytime. At night, pallets for the slaves not domiciled in the south room may have been laid. These pallets would have been rolled up in the morning and placed in the south room closet or on top of the double bed in the room to be covered by a quilt. For the purposes of interpreting the quarters, however, it may be desirable to roll a straw-filled mattress and place

it in the corner of the hallway. The mattress should be made of canvas and tied with heavy hemp cord.

A three inch board with pegs should be nailed to the wall between the kitchen door and the northwest corner. On this the men would have hung their hats when entering from outside. Several men's hats should be hung on the pegs. In the summer the hats should be straw and in the winter felt. The condition should indicate much use. A woman's plaid wool shawl, c. 1840's, may be hung on one of the pegs also. This would have been used by one of the female slaves on cold and windy days when doing tasks outdoors.

Beside the door leading to the yard, a square nail should be driven. On this should be hung a pierced tin candle lantern to be used by persons going outside after dark.

A small table may be placed against the east wall opposite the kitchen door. This table would have been set at the foot of the stairs, when meals were being served in the dining room. The table should have a rectangular top, approximately 36 inches by 18 inches. Like the other tables recommended as being contrived at the post, this table should be simply made. The legs, however, should be trestle and supported by a stretcher. It should be stained Quarter-master red.

### The Slaves' Room

This ground floor room is pleasant. It has a large eight-pane, double-hung window and a door in the south wall. There is a large closet or storage area in the north wall and a fireplace to warm the room. The furnishings for this room probably were simple, since slaves received little consideration even from the kindest owners. Plain pallets or beds and perhaps a few pieces of furniture were all that was deemed necessary for their comfort. The following furnishings are recommended:

Bedsteads - Although some families may have permitted their slaves to have pallets on which to sleep, it will be presumed that the Swords were more considerate and provided at least some of their servants with bedsteads.

Against the east wall between the doorway and the closet, a double bed should be set. This should be a survival type of the early under-eaves bedsteads produced during Colonial days. It should have short head posts, a low headboard, and rail-high foot posts. These bedsteads were very low, never more than 18 to 20 inches off the floor. The headboards varied in style and sometimes were concave curved, flanked by flat central sections or slightly arched in continuous flat curves. Posts tended to be heavy, about four inches square at rail level. The bed would be a rope bedstead, with the ropes strung through bored rope holes or over small turned rope knobs. Made in assorted woods, it probably would have been finished with a red filler.

A single bedstead should be set in the southwest corner of the room. This should have a simple turned headboard and footboard with straight board rails. The turned posts of the head and footboards



were joined by turned rails, approximately three to four inches from the top.<sup>54/</sup>

Accessories - On each bedstead there should be laid a straw or husk mattress covered with canvas. The double bed should have two and the single bed one feather pillow. TICKING

Over each bed a faded quilt that shows much use should be pulled. "Honey Bee," "Feather Star," "Wild-Goose-Chase," or other early patterns may be used.

Chair - A ladder back chair should be set against the east wall to the right of the doorway. This should have front and rear uprights about an inch and a half to two inches in diameter. The front legs may be plain or sausage-and-ring turned. The back uprights may terminate in urn-shaped or elongated ball finials. Four to six graduated slats with the upper edges slightly curved should serve as ladders between the back uprights. The seat should be rush or splint; and the legs should be braced by box stretchers. This is found in native hardwoods and probably will be stained.<sup>55/</sup>

Stool - In front of the fireplace, a four-legged stool should be set. This may be a contrived piece, consisting of a solid oak or walnut seat supported by four plain round legs about two inches in diameter.

Washstand - A small packing box should be set to the left of the closet doorway for the servants to use as a washstand. The box should be plain and not reinforced on the outside. It should be approximately 36 inches by 12 inches by 16 inches; and stenciled on one side in black paint should be the words: "Captain Swords, QMD, First Dragoons."

Accessories - On the top of the washstand, a tin or copper basin should be placed. The basin should date 1830-1840. Beside the basin an old transfer pattern saucer with a bar of homemade soap should be set. The saucer may be chipped and look like

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<sup>54/</sup> Miller, I, No. 1077, pp. 600-601.  
<sup>55/</sup> Ormsbee, p. 53.

it is one discarded from a china set.

On the floor of the box, a brass water pail should be set. This should not be a spun pail, for this process was developed in 1851. The brass or iron bail handle should be riveted to the sides of the pail. It is not necessary that it be in mint condition. The bucket may have a battered and used look, as if it had seen many travels.

Into one side of the packing box, a square nail may be driven; and on this a homespun towel should be hung.

Fireplace - Fires probably were burned only during the coldest spells in the slaves' room. In the winter a good part of their time would have been spent in the kitchen and other parts of the house or outbuildings; and the bedroom would have been used primarily for dressing and sleeping purposes. During the Colonial period, fires were not uncommonly built on the floor of the fireplace. Andirons or grates were reserved for areas where fires burned more frequently. This custom probably was followed here; and no andirons or grates are recommended for this fireplace. Logs and kindling, however, in the fall, winter and spring may be placed in the opening; and in the summer a pile of blackened ashes may indicate the fireplace had been in use.

Beside the opening, a hearth brush made of a pole around which splints or husks have been tied may be set. This would be a crude, home-made affair.

~~salt glazed - earthenware~~  
Also on the hearth, a glazed pottery jug with handle, c. 1840, should be set. Into the opening a corn cob for a stopper may be thrust.

On the mantel the following items should be set: a brass or tin candleholder with partially burned candle to be used if the slaves were called during the night, a round wooden lapped box in which tobacco or other small items might be kept, a corncob pipe, and a glazed pottery pitcher. The latter may be salt glaze, for a large number of fragments of this

56/

ware have been uncovered at the site.

Over the mantel two small pegs or square nails may be driven into the wall. On these several cane fishing poles should be hung for the servants to use during their free time. The poles should be strung with linen line and have iron hooks attached.

Clothes pegs - To the right of the south door, a plain wlanut board with three or four wooden pegs should be hung for the servants to use. The board should be approximately three inches wide. On one of the pegs an old weathered man's hat; c. 1835, should be hung.

Lantern - When Captain Swords came home late at night and needed light by which to dismount and enter his home, a servant must have been summoned. He probably would have used a lantern hung near the door for this purpose. It is recommended that a pierced tin lantern or a glass candle lantern be hung from a nail in the wall to the left of the door leading outside.

Curtains - Curtains probably hung at the window which faced the parade ground. At one time Swords complained that a soldier tried to enter the slaves' quarters and at another time the Swords themselves occupied the room, so curtains undoubtedly were hung to ensure privacy. The curtains should be made of a small print calico of the 1840's period. A small pattern on a red or green background is suggested. Old quilts are a good source of pattern styles; but the material probably will be a modern production. The panels should be hemmed at the top and bottom with approximately a one inch allowance. Because material was not made as wide as today's, the panels will appear somewhat skimpy. The curtains should be hung from a small wooden pole attached by metal brackets inside the window frame.

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56/ In the collections of the Kansas Historical Society.

Floor covering - The floor should be bare. No carpets or rugs are recommended.

### Closet

The closet probably was used chiefly for storage. Packing boxes, barrels, trunks not in use, etc. could be placed here, until the next transfer arose. This area need not be furnished. While it might hold some visitor interest, it has no intrinsic value to the interpretation of the quarters. If it is decided to furnish the closet, the following articles may be used: a board with five pegs nailed to the wall on which are hung calico gowns for the women slaves and a calico shirt for a man, c. 1840, two hide-bound trunks, c. 1828-1840, two barrels with hickory bands stenciled "Capt. Thos. Swords, QMD, First Dragoons," several small hogsheads, and a carpet bag.

### The Kitchen

The kitchen is similar to the south bedroom, except that two windows occupy the north wall. The closet in the south wall probably was used as a pantry; and it is the larger size of the fireplace that has identified the room. The kitchen is a pleasant area and one in which much of the activity of the home centered. From here wafted tempting odors to tantalize children and send them in to beg a cookie or perhaps a crumb of cake from the cook. It bustled, when fruits were being preserved for winter's use and the Swords

were entertaining. In cold weather the warmth of the fireplace was comforting to the servants, when they came in from outdoor chores; and they all must have eaten here, after the family had been served upstairs.

Eighteenth and early nineteenth century kitchens had much in common; and the equipment was basically the same, until stoves replaced cooking over a fire. Despite supplements sent away for or acquired from the post sutler, the diet remained relatively simple, with salt pork, beef, and bread being basic. Game and fowl shot near the post were welcome additions, although Swords claimed to have little personal luck hunting. Fish could be caught in nearby streams. Mrs. Swords made jellies and preserves from the fruit of her trees; and she probably had a vegetable garden to provide delicacies not ordinarily available. The Swords kept horses; and they had a cow to provide fresh milk for their boys. Chickens or ducks may have been included in the "etc." Swords mentions in one of his letters.<sup>52/</sup> Conveniences were few; and many of the furnishings in the kitchen must have been made at the post. The following are recommended to relate to a kitchen at Fort Scott, c. 1845:

Cupboard or open-face dresser - This would have been used to store dishes and frequently used pots and pans. The Swords probably had several sets of

<sup>52/</sup> Swords to Lieutenant Johnston, March 5, 1843.

dishes--a "good" set and an every day set. A cupboard of this period comes in two parts. The upper portion has flat, slightly overhanging molded cornices or hoods, 46 to 60 inches wide, sometimes with a narrow flat frieze below. It should have three to four full-width shelves, preferably of the same depth with plain or rounded edges. The sides may be scrolled pieces. The lower section has a counter top from 16 to 22 inches deep, below which are two drawers four to five inches deep and a full-width cupboard with single or double doors. The latter doors may be plain or recessed panel and flanked by wide stiles or sometimes a wide center stile that is reeded or paneled. The drawer fronts are plain and fitted with turned wooden knobs. Hinges may be H-shaped or butt-iron. The piece may have a simple molded base supported by four plain bracket feet or may rest directly on the floor. Height varies from five feet 10 inches to seven feet. This style was made for many years<sup>58/</sup> The cupboard should be set to the left of the pantry door on the south wall.

*too late  
for this  
type*

Accessories - The shelves of the cupboard should display dishes and items used frequently by the cook. It is recommended that a set of dishes, c. 1838, be purchased to arrange on the shelves. The pattern may be Flow-Blue "Scinde," "Sprig," "Blue Featheredge,"<sup>59/</sup> or one of the transfer patterns found at the site. The set does not have to be complete; but it should include vegetable dishes, a platter, a tureen, plates, small dishes, and cups. These should be placed as they would be used on the shelves; and in addition, the following items are to be used with them: a tole tea canister, a stoneware pitcher with blue decoration, a stoneware bean pot, a tole bread basket, a wooden divided box for silverware, several small lapped wooden boxes for spices, and two pewter mugs. On the top of the cupboard, stoneware crocks, their tops covered with linen and tied with string, should be set.

<sup>58/</sup> Ormsbee, No. 241, pp. 332-334.

<sup>59/</sup> The Chelsea pattern is not recommended. It is used elsewhere, and presumably the extra pieces are stored in the pantry.

Chairs - A number of chairs would have been needed by the slaves to rest on and to dine on at mealtime. The chairs recommended are simple slat-back chairs, c. 1830. These are similar to the one recommended for the bedroom. The seats should be rush or splint. All of the chairs do not have to be in good condition, several of them may show the wear that moves about the country would occasion. Quite possibly they were chairs picked up at posts, when officers transferred away. Two chairs should be set on either side of the east doorway; and one chair should be drawn up to a table in the center of the room. A third chair should be set to the right of the cupboard; and a fourth chair should be set in the corner to the right of the fireplace.

Rocking chair - One old rocking chair for the use of one of the older servants is recommended. It will be presumed that by virtue of age and position in the household he was entitled to this luxury. The chair should be a slat-back piece also. It may or may not have arms.<sup>60/</sup>

Stool - A three-legged stool should be placed in front of the fireplace for the cook to use when roasting meats and stirring the old iron kettle. The stool should be sturdy and home made.

Table - A table should be set in the center of the kitchen for the cook to work on and for servants to use at mealtime. The table should be approximately 56 to 60 inches by 26 to 32 inches and have trestle legs. The three inch skirts at either end are overhung by the top. The X-shaped trestles and the stretchers should be four to six inches wide. This table is a survival of earlier eighteenth century sawbuck tables and differs only in being somewhat lighter. Usually the table was made of pine; however, at Fort Scott it might have been walnut or oak.<sup>61/</sup>

Accessories - Some kind of activity should be in progress. The cook could be baking bread or cake; she could be making applesauce, pies, or apple

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<sup>60/</sup> Ormsbee, 53.

<sup>61/</sup> Ibid., 113.

butter; or beans could be readied to bake. Items appropriate to whatever the activity is should be displayed on the table top. If the activity is pie making, a large crock, a wooden rolling pin, a pie tin, a cup, and canisters of flour and sugar could be set on the table. This can be left to the imagination of those involved in interpreting the house.

Auxiliary table - A second smaller table should be set between the north windows. This should be a post-made table, approximately 30 to 36 inches long and 18 to 24 inches wide. The legs should be approximately two inches square, tapering at the floor slightly. Beneath the overhanging top, there should be a three inch skirt. This is similar to other tables recommended for the quarters.

*finished*  
Accessories - On top of the work table, a basket filled with blown eggs should be set. A salt-glaze milk pitcher may be set beside the basket. Under the table, a brass bucket should be seen. This should be similar to the one recommended for the servants' bedroom; and it does not have to be in mint condition. This pail would have been used to bring milk from the cow to the house.

Churn - Butter was a luxury that owning a cow would have enabled the Swords to enjoy. A wooden dasher-type churn with iron bands should be set in the northeast corner of the room.

Fireplace - The items in this kitchen fireplace would not have differed substantially from those used during the eighteenth century, when cooking was done over an open fire. The list of utensils used in the preparation of meals is long and varied. Not all, however, would have been on display. Presumably, many would have been stored in the pantry closet, until need for them arose. The following items are recommended:

Andirons - A pair of iron andirons should be set in the fireplace. These should be simply made, with two supporting feet and a plain shaft to which is riveted a horizontal bar supported by a single foot. The andirons should appear to have been made at the post, c. 1840. On the andirons, several oak logs



should be laid in anticipation of need (or actually burning). The back bricks should be blackened from use; and under the logs ashes should be scattered from previous fires.

Crane - A crane should be attached to the fireplace and from this the kettles, teakettles, and pots hung over the fire.

Teakettle - A cast-iron teakettle, c. 1835-1845, should be hung on the crane. Water was heated almost continuously during the day to care for the needs of the family.

Dutch oven - Dutch ovens were used both in the home and in camp; and the Swords surely owned one. A squat kettle set on three short legs and with a lid that could be covered with coals, the oven was excellent for baking. It is recommended that a Dutch oven be set on the hearth near the fire.

Reflector oven - Tin reflector oven were used to cook fowl and other game. Heat from the fire was reflected by the metal back, cutting down the cooking time. If the fire is going, a reflector oven should be set on the hearth facing the flames. On a skewer inside, a piece of meat should be cooking. The latter may be simulated or real.

Pot - If the reflector oven is not used, a large iron kettle or pot may be substituted. In this soups, stews, oatmeal, etc. would have been cooked. A large iron ladle may be placed in the pot ready for use. Surprisingly, there is no evidence today of hooks on which utensils needed by a cook would have hung.

Fireplace equipment - To the left of the opening, a wrought iron poker and tongs and a hearth broom made of splints should be set. There is no evidence of jam hooks, so the pieces should lean against the bricks. On the right side, a pair of bellows with brass tip and wood handles should be set.

*SUGGEST SIMULATED  
TO DETECT INSECTS  
UNLESS TENDER CAREFULLY*

Shoes - In front of the bellows, a pair of shoes for a small boy, c. 1845, should be set. These could be leather boots with little tassels; and they should be muddy. Undoubtedly, the Swords' boys would have found a mud puddle somewhere, possibly near the stream, and come home to earn their mother's displeasure. The shoes would have been given a servant to dry and clean; and they probably would have been brought to the kitchen for this purpose.

Barrels and casks - Barrels and casks were used to store a variety of staples that were purchased in bulk quantities. Sugar, flour, cider, whiskey, brandy, vinegar, apples, molasses, salted down meat, etc. came in these sturdy containers. To the left of the fireplace, a barrel with hickory bands containing flour or sugar should be placed. On top of the lid, a long-handled tin or brass dipper should be set to use when needed. A small wire mouse trap, c. 1840, may be placed unobtrusively beside the barrel. Rodents were a problem in days when it was not possible to keep containers tightly closed; and small furry animals crept into kitchens for warmth, as well as food. Rat and mouse traps were made at an early period; and the one used here probably would be of simple wire construction with bait inside.

Several casks, one with a wooden spigot, should be set in the northwest corner of the room.

Broom - In the corner beside the casks, a broom made of straw or fine splints may be set for use in housekeeping.

Curtains - No curtains are recommended for the windows, which overlooked the back yard and buildings.

Floor covering - No carpets or rugs are recommended.

### Closet

The closet or pantry off the kitchen must have been used for storage. Extra pots, skillets, trivets, dishes, crocks, preserves, supplies, etc. must have been kept here

on shelves. The area adds little to the interpretation of the house but increases the cost of furnishings considerably. It is recommended that the pantry not be furnished.

#### Porch

Visitors will leave the house via the door leading to the back yard. Here, they may wish to pause to rest or to inspect other buildings. It is recommended that several sturdy benches be set on the porch under the windows. These may be used by visitors to rest on, before continuing their tour. During the Swords' occupancy, there probably was a bench on the porch for the slaves to use as a washstand. It would have been convenient also during warm months for them to sit on, when repairing harness, churning butter, picking over vegetables and fruits, etc. The benches used today may be old in style but new in construction and sturdy enough to sustain the weight of visitors without accident.

#### Enclosed Area on First Floor Porch

On the first floor rear porch, there is an enclosed area that runs the width of the piazza. The purpose of this shed is not known. It is recommended that this be used by the area as a utility room to store vacuum cleaners, mops, and other cleaning equipment needed to keep the quarters spotless.

FLOOR PLANS AND ELEVATIONS

## ESTIMATES

# ESTIMATED COSTS

## Front Porch

Jasmine, in packing box	\$	15.00	
Mignonettes (2), " "		30.00	
Cactus, " " "		10.00	
			55.00

## First Floor Hallway

Table	50.00	
Table cover	35.00	
Vases	75.00	
Officer's cap	50.00	
Picture	100.00	
Serving table	40.00	
Indian bow & quiver	150.00	
		555.00

## Parlor

Parlor suite	1800.00	
Pillows	80.00	
Candlestand	150.00	
Candlestick, brass	65.00	
Box, mosaic or shell	35.00	
Chair, Voltaire	550.00	
Center table	300.00	
Table cover	65.00	
Book	25.00	
Box	30.00	
Card table	450.00	
Figurines, vase	200.00	
Packing box, drape	50.00	
Books	285.00	
Desk	100.00	
Table	35.00	
Fire screen	95.00	
Mantel ornaments	325.00	
Fireplace equipment	85.00	
Fireboard	50.00	
Mirror	95.00	
Silhouettes, pair	120.00	
Pictures	500.00	
Draperies	650.00	
Brussels carpet	1200.00	
		7895.00

Brot Fwd. 7895.00  
Dining Room

Table	650.00
Chairs, (8)	1100.00
High chair	95.00
Side table	500.00
Fitted liquor case	150.00
Tureen	280.00
Settee	600.00
Guitar	75.00
Mantel items	375.00
Fireplace equipment	100.00
Tea set, Chelsea	275.00
Pictures	250.00
Sewing table	175.00
Basket & contents	35.00
Curtains	650.00
Carpet, Ingrain	600.00
	<hr/> 13805.00

Hallway

Easel	55.00
	<hr/> 13860.00

Master Bedroom

Bedstead, etc.	600.00
Quilt	275.00
Chest of drawers	550.00
Accessories, " "	115.00
Wardrobe	800.00
Washstand	175.00
Accessories, " "	260.00
Mirror	65.00
Trunk	100.00
Hat boxes	150.00
Table	50.00
Bathtub	95.00
Bucket	70.00
Uniform	250.00
Sword, sash, belt, etc.	350.00
Mantel items	185.00
Fireplace equipment	65.00
Candle sconce	55.00
Pictures	85.00
Rug	165.00
	<hr/> 18320.00

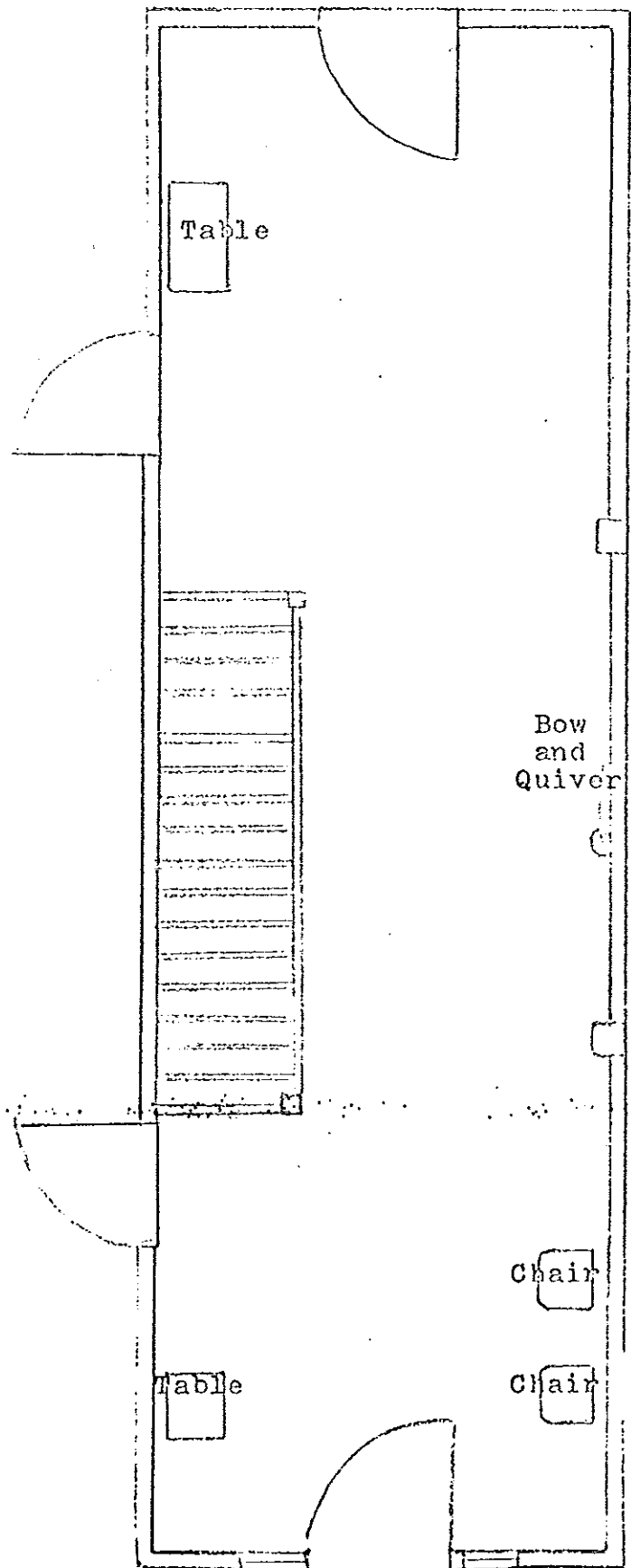
Brot Fwd.		18320.00
<u>Children's Bedroom</u>		
Bedstead, etc.	550.00	
Coverlet	150.00	
Chest of drawers	500.00	
Washstand	175.00	
Accessories, "	100.00	
Table	85.00	
School items	150.00	
Child's chair	95.00	
Toys	250.00	
Bottle, mug	115.00	
Toy box	25.00	
Sconce	55.00	
Rug	45.00	
		20615.00
<u>Basement Hallway</u>		
Pallet	45.00	
Lantern	85.00	
Clothing	85.00	
Table	45.00	
		20875.00
<u>Servants' Quarters</u>		
Bedsteads, etc.	400.00	
Quilts, worn	180.00	
Chair	75.00	
Stool	50.00	
Packing box	35.00	
Accessories	115.00	
Mantel items	100.00	
Fireplace equipment	45.00	
Curtains	35.00	
Miscellaneous	60.00	
		21970.00
<u>Kitchen</u>		
Cupboard	600.00	
Contents	850.00	
Chairs (4)	225.00	
Rocking chair	135.00	
Stool	50.00	
Trestle table	450.00	
Accessories	195.00	
Auxiliary table	85.00	
Accessories	115.00	
Churn, broom	95.00	
Fireplace equipment	90.00	
Cooking equipment	185.00	
Barrels & casks	175.00	
		25220.00



Brot Fwd.		25220.00
<u>Closets (Furnished)*</u>		
Hallway, second floor	650.00	
Servants' quarters	500.00	
Kitchen pantry	1000.00	
		<u>27370.00</u>
<u>Back Porch</u>		
Benches	50.00	
Total**		<u>\$ 27420.00</u>

\* It is recommended that these not be furnished.

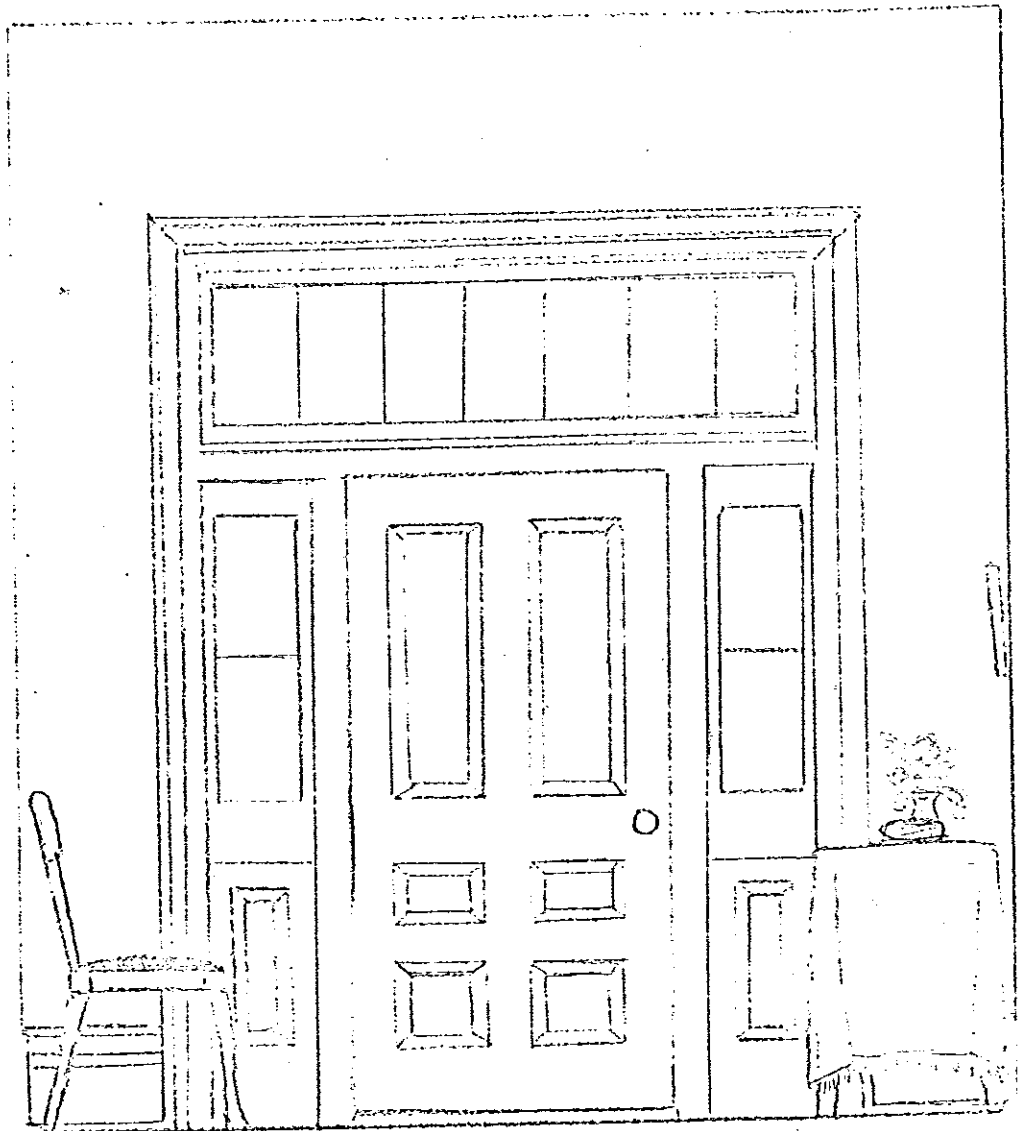
\*\* Estimates do not include time and travel for procurement of items.



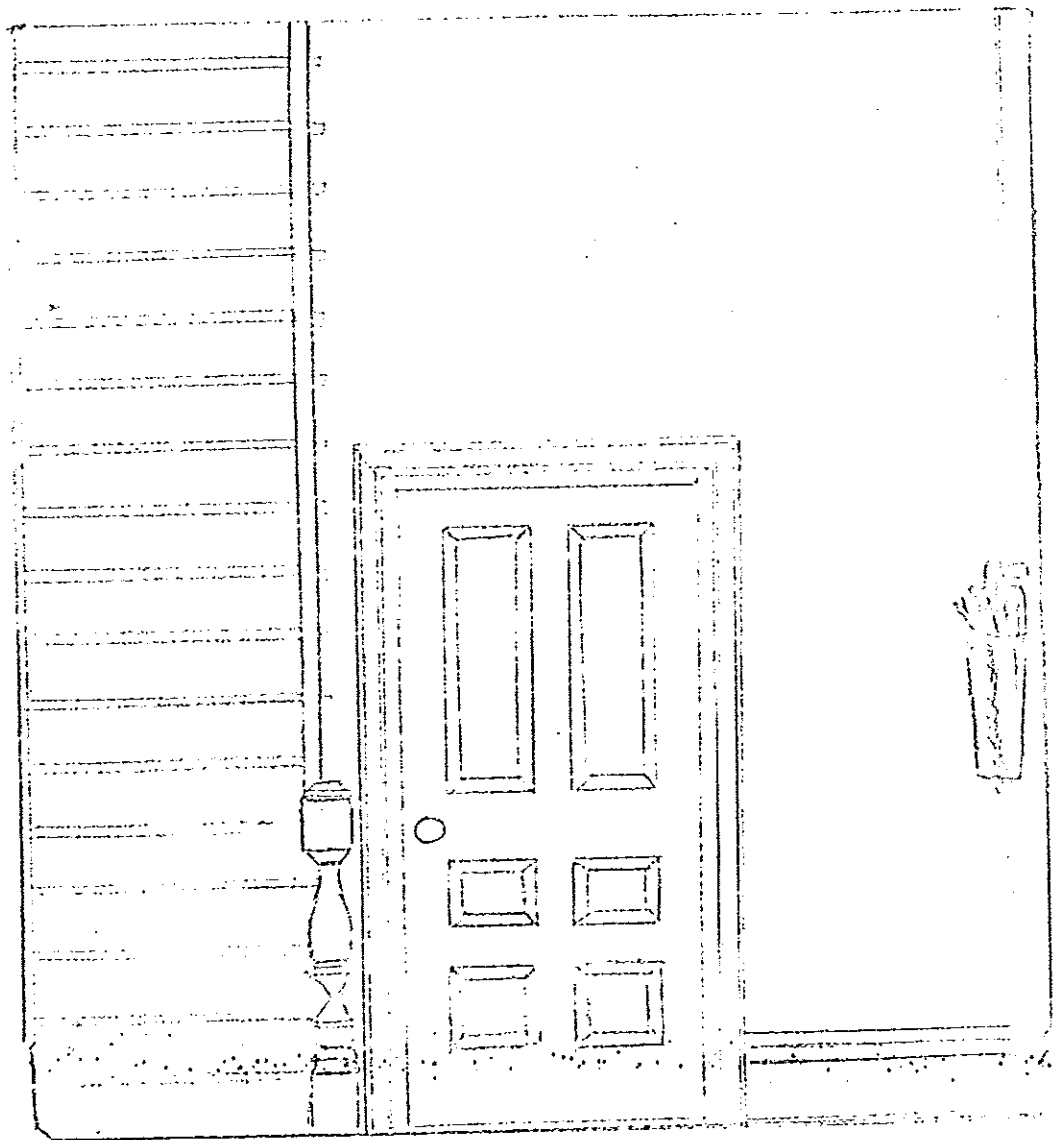
First Floor Hallway

approx.  
 $\frac{1}{4}" = 1'$

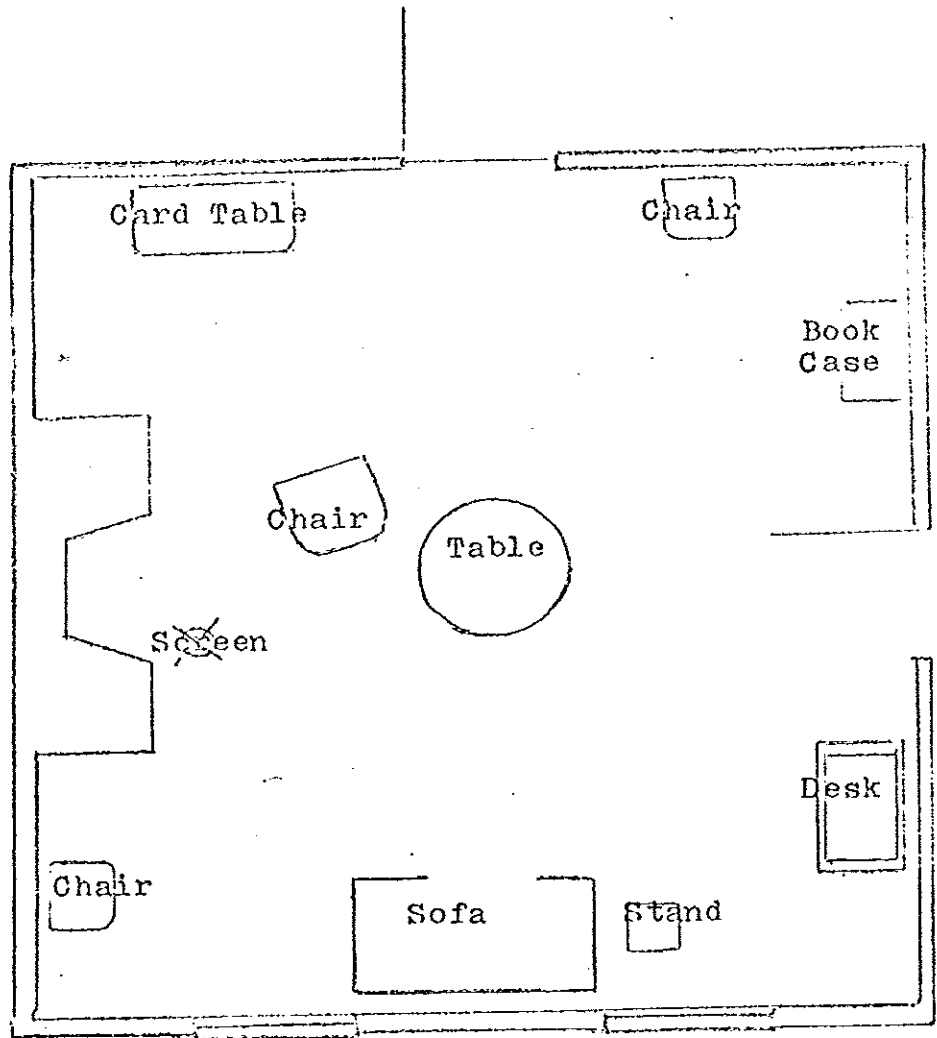
N  
↑



First Floor Hallway - South



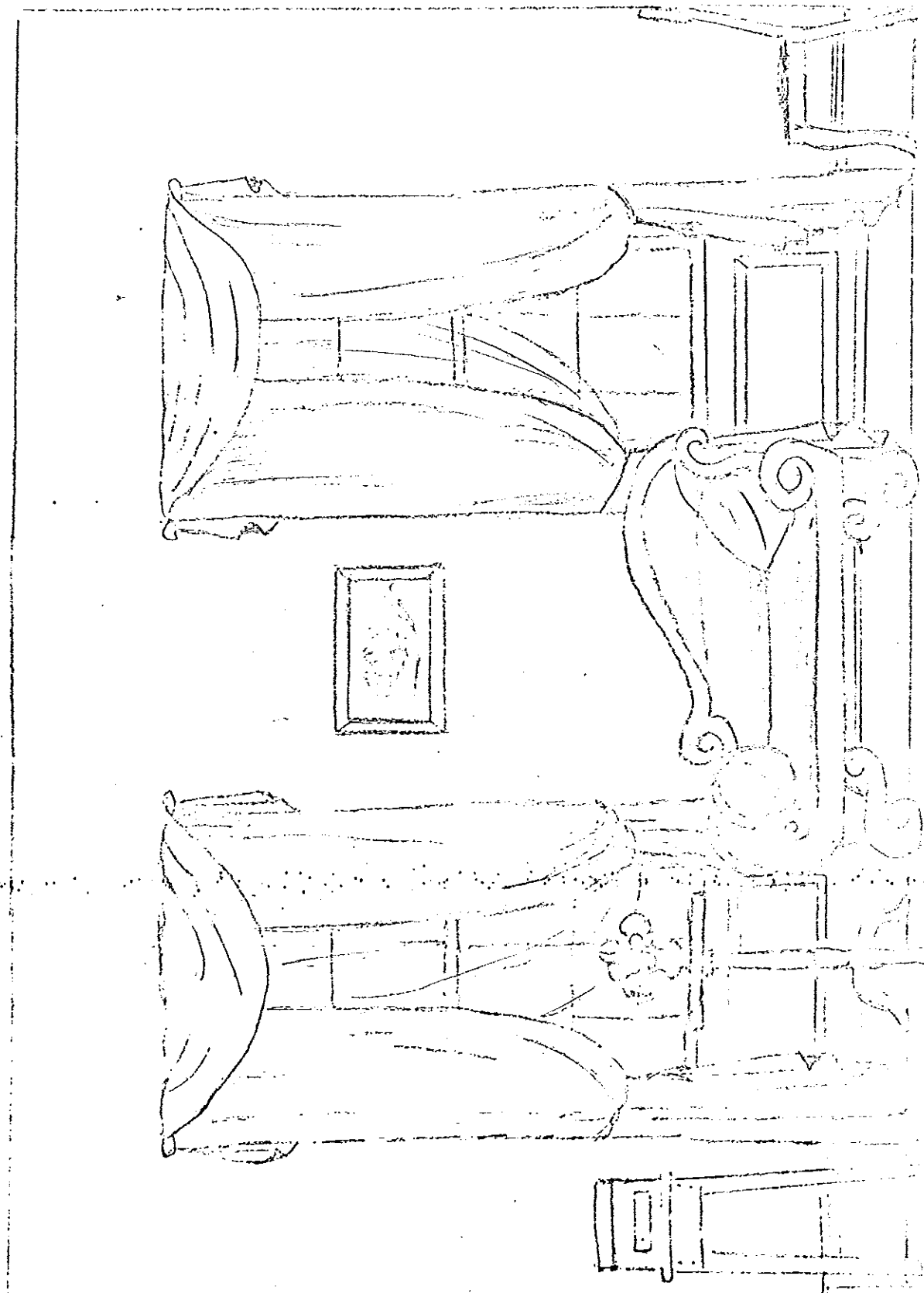
First Floor Hallway - North



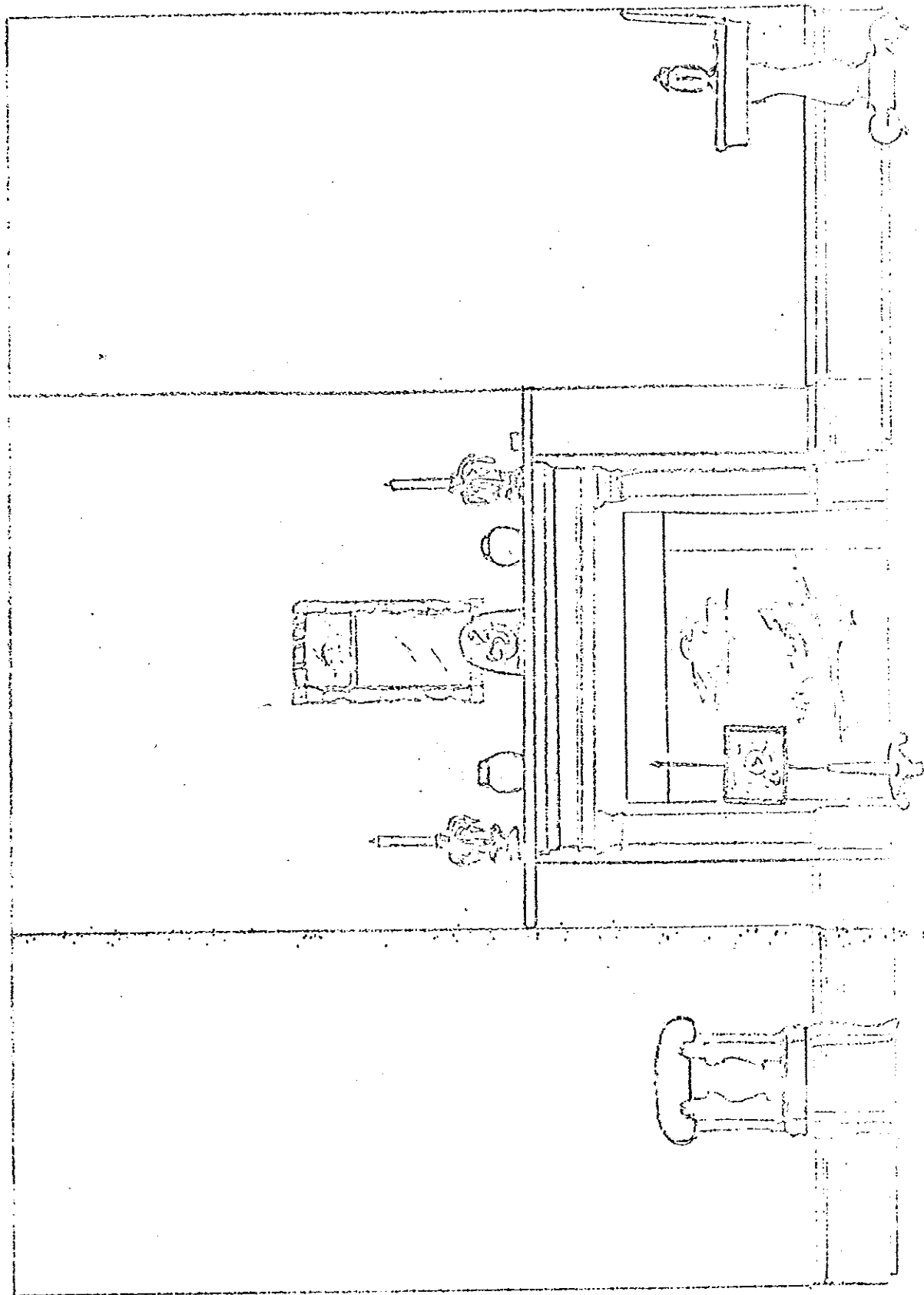
approx.  
 $\frac{1}{2}'' = 1'$



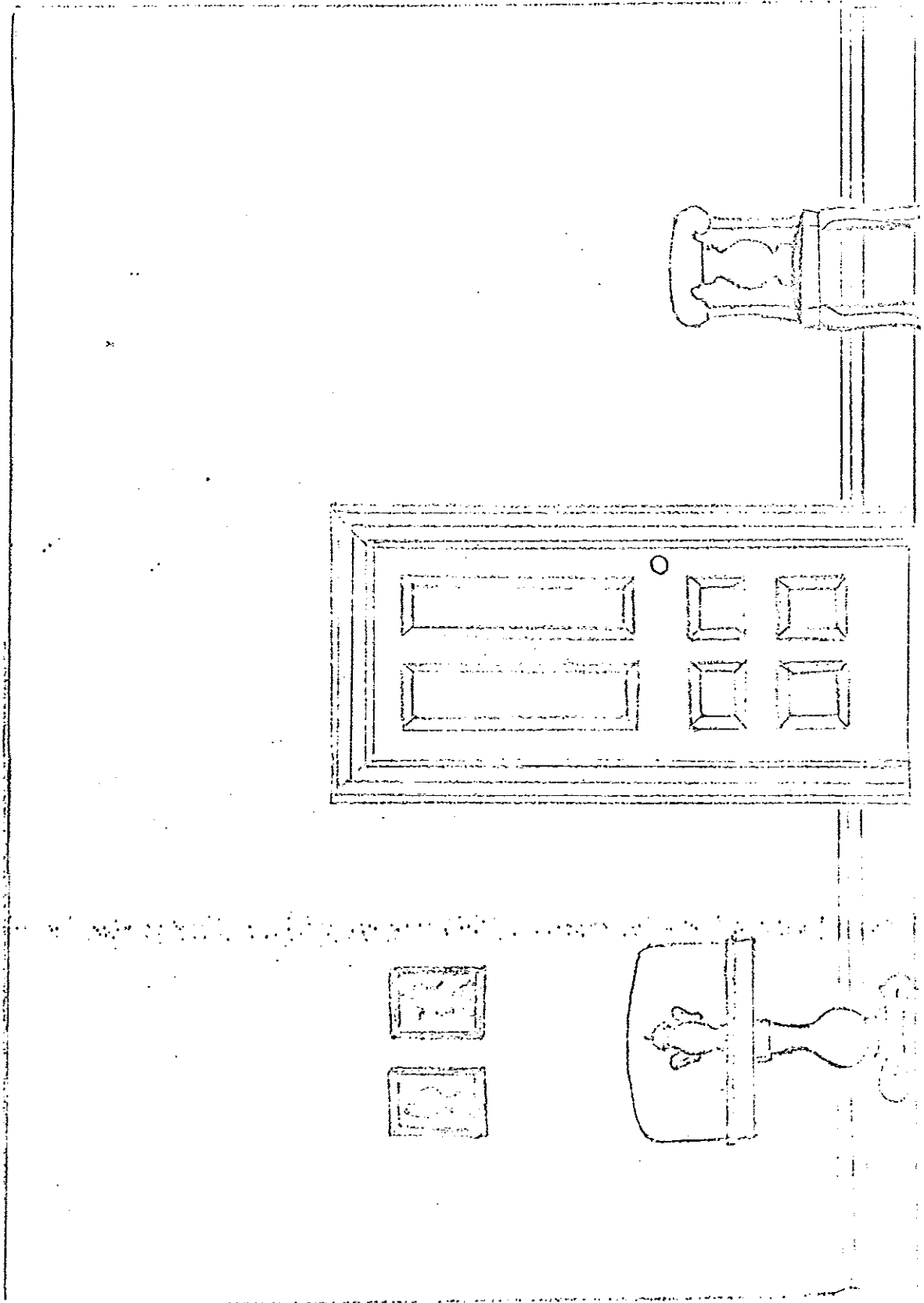
Parlor



Parlor - South  
62

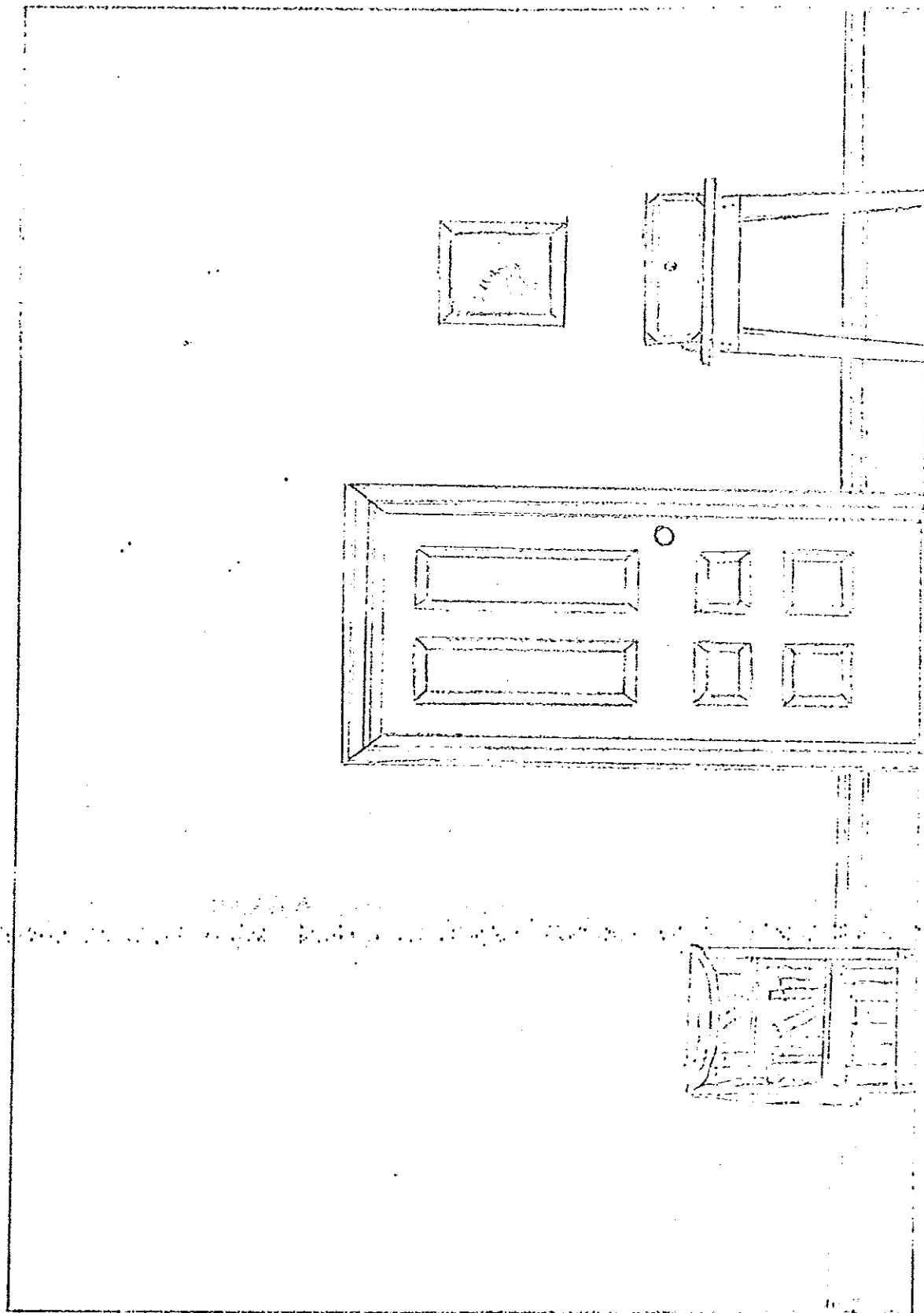


Parlor - West

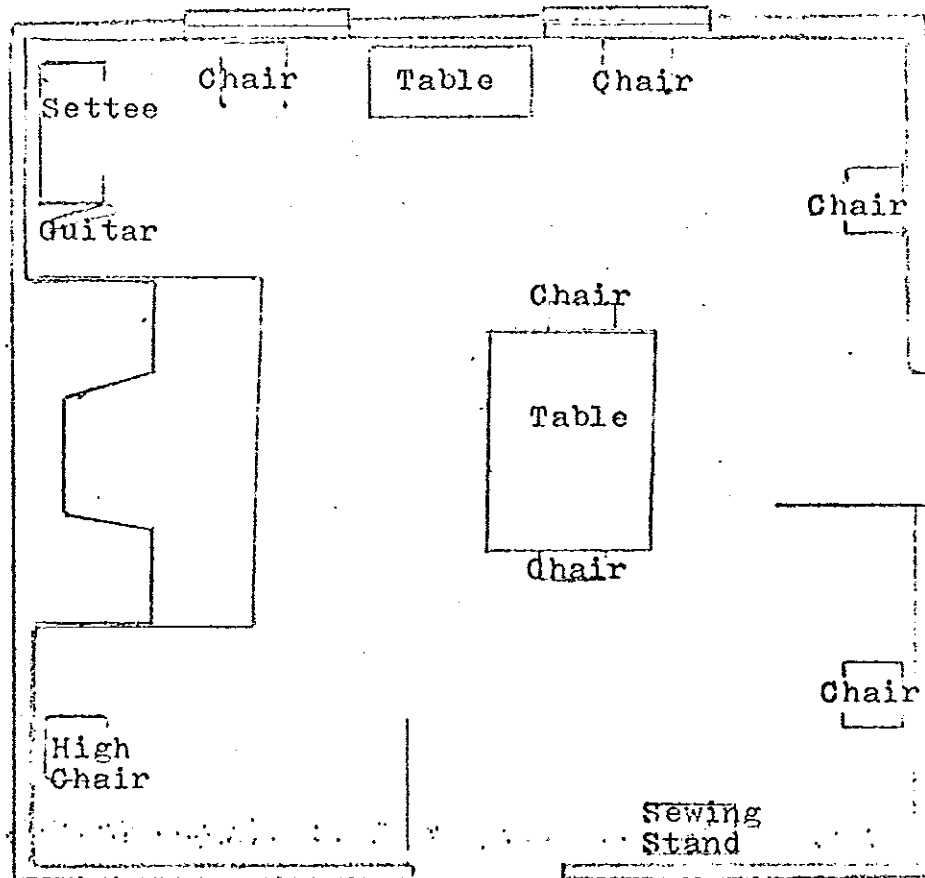


Parlor - North





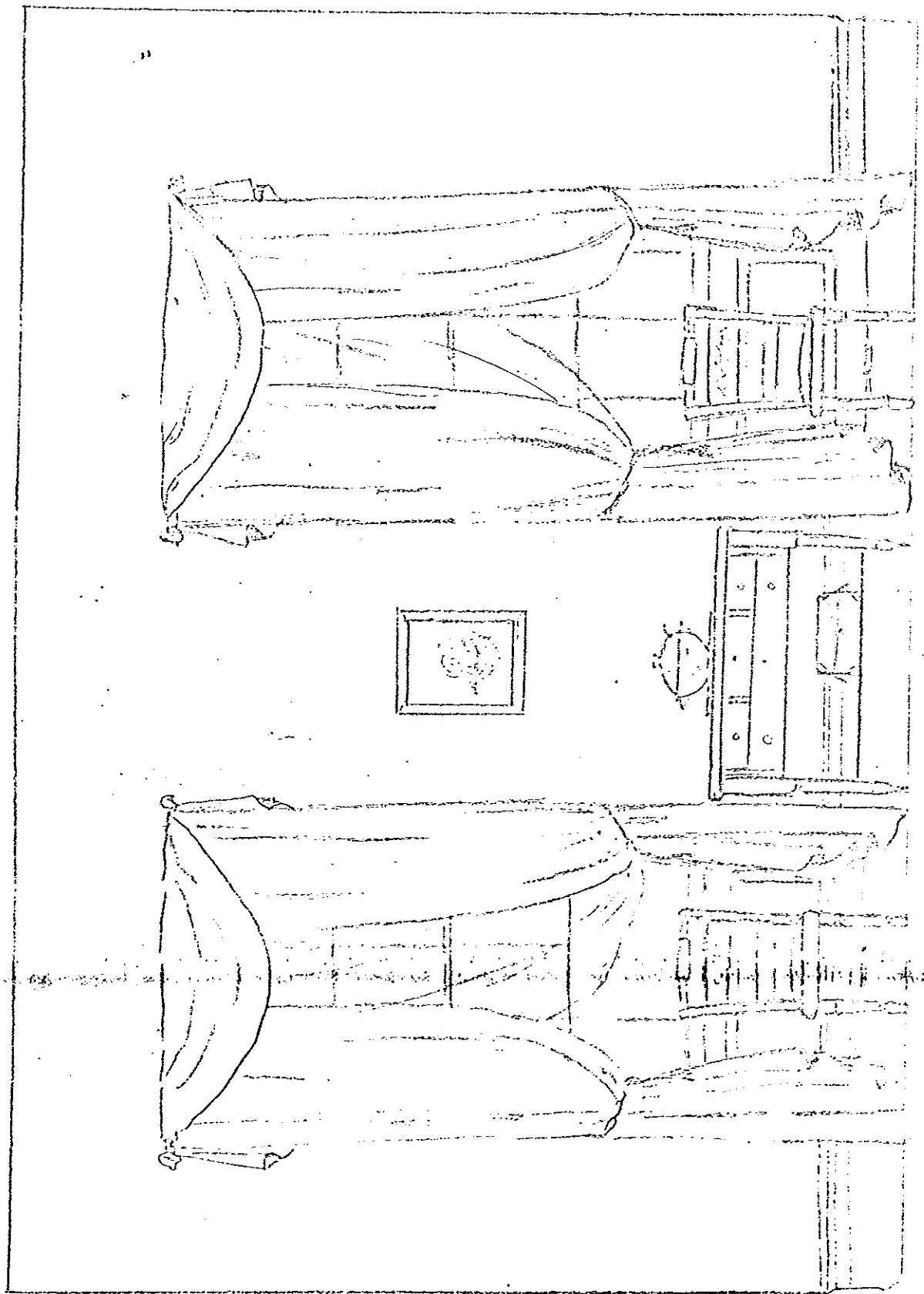
Parlor - East



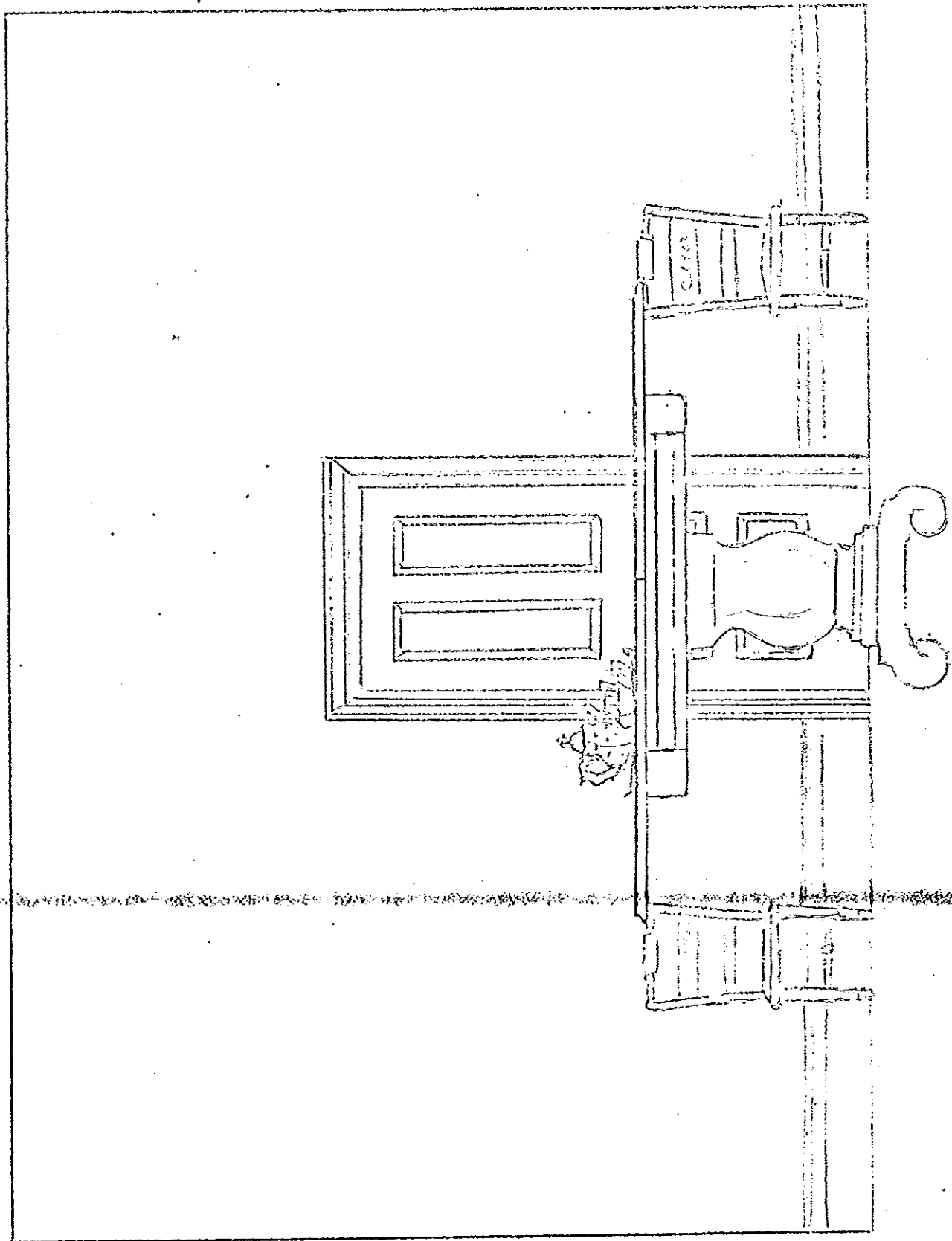
approx.  
 $\frac{1}{2}" = 1'$

N  
↑

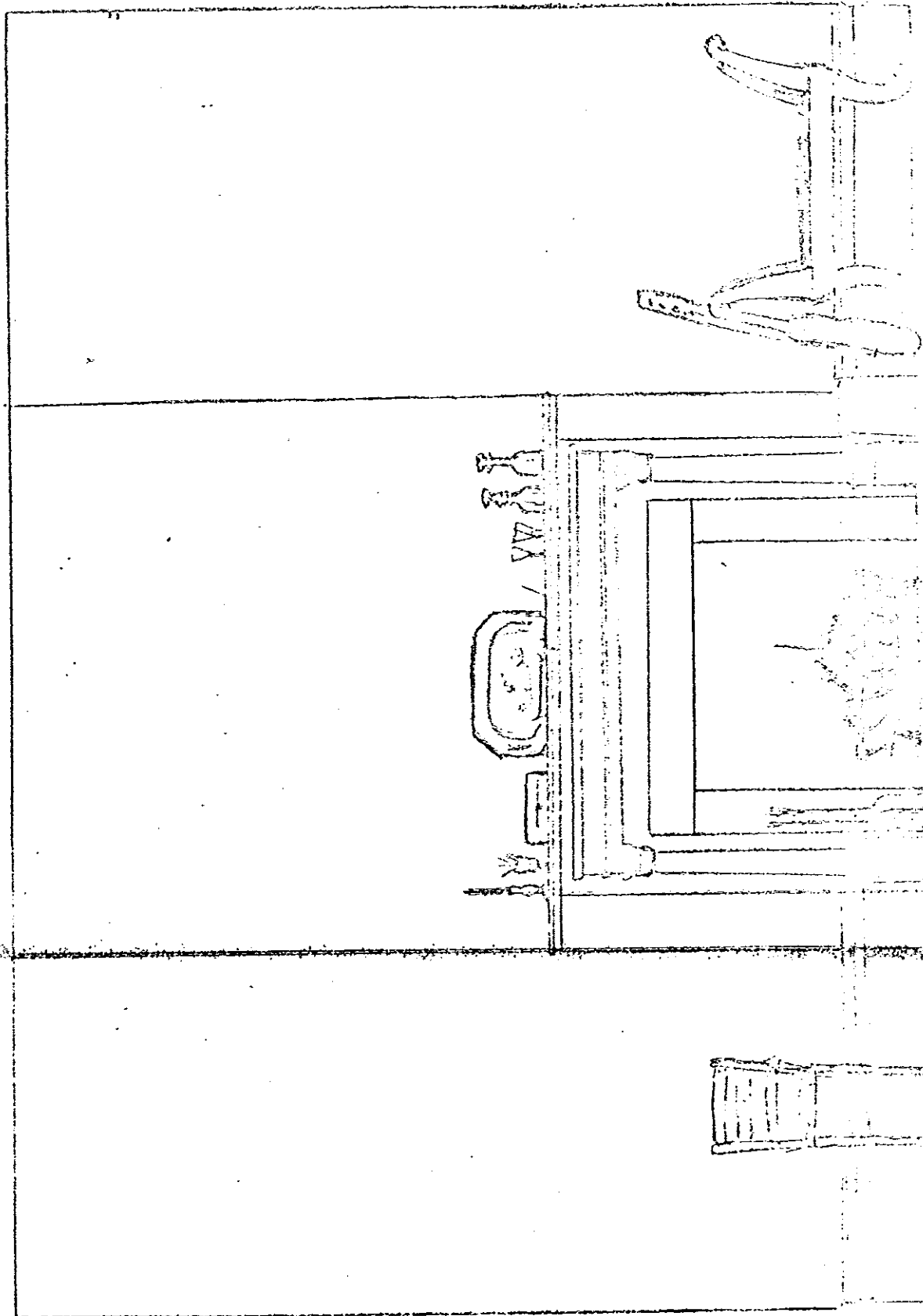
Dining Room



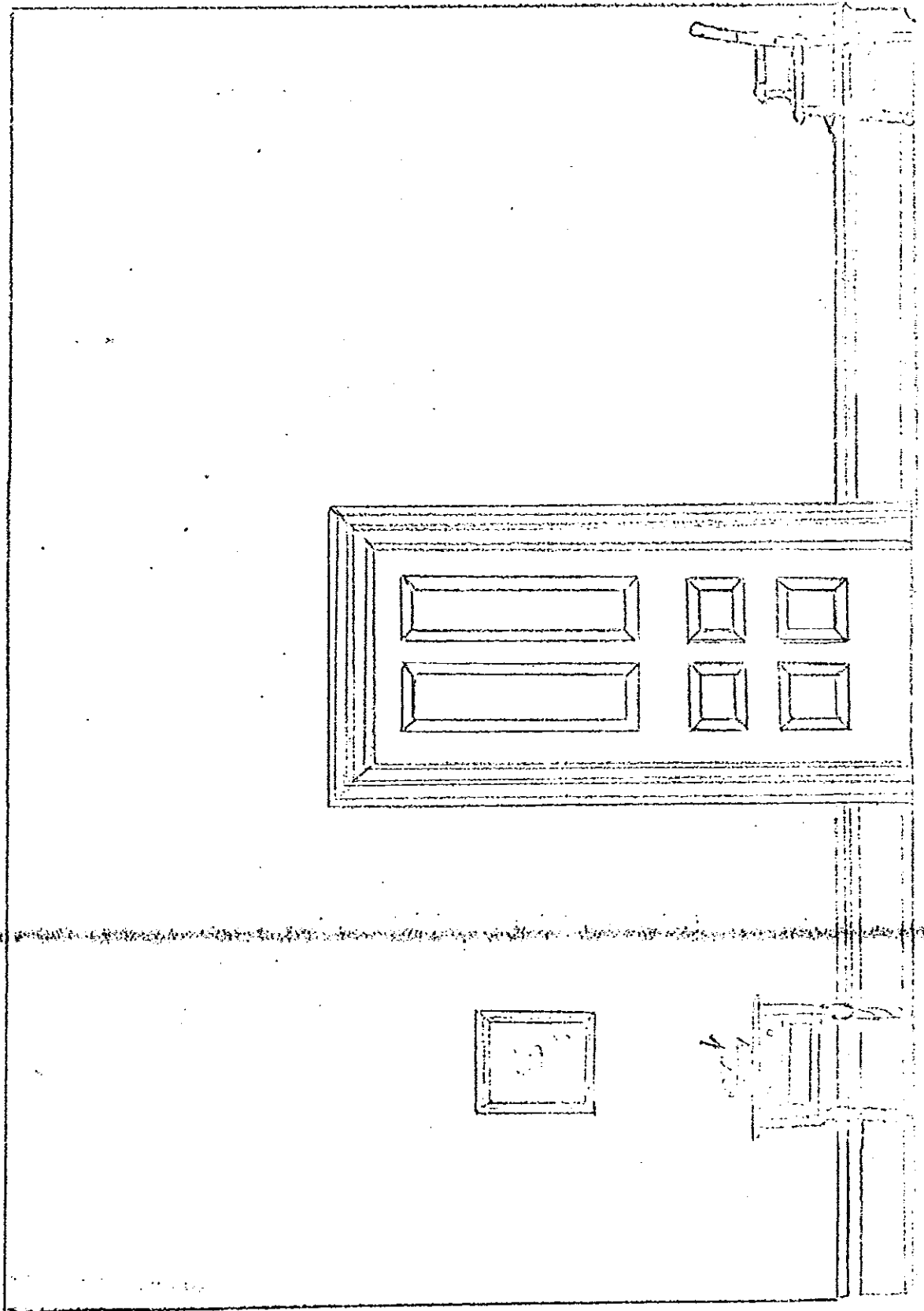
Dining Room - North



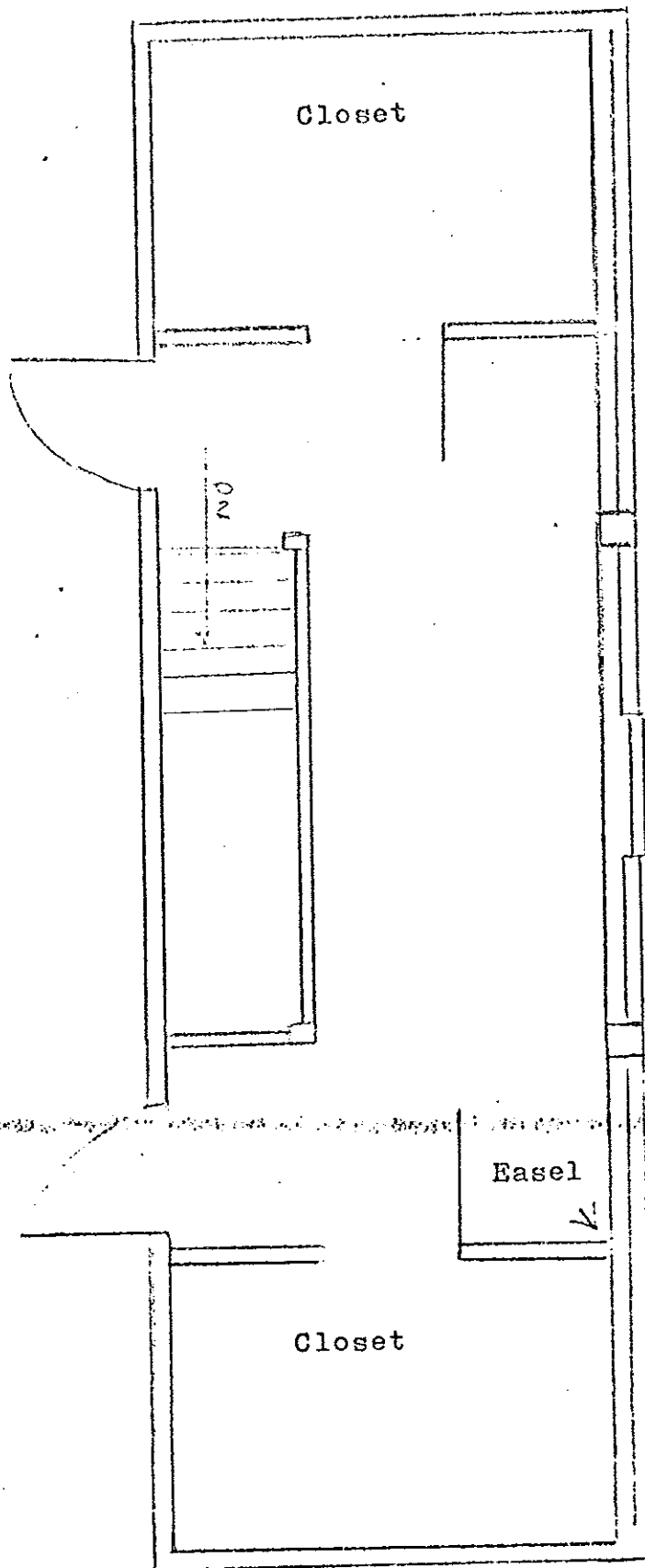
The Dining Room - East



Dining Room - West  
69

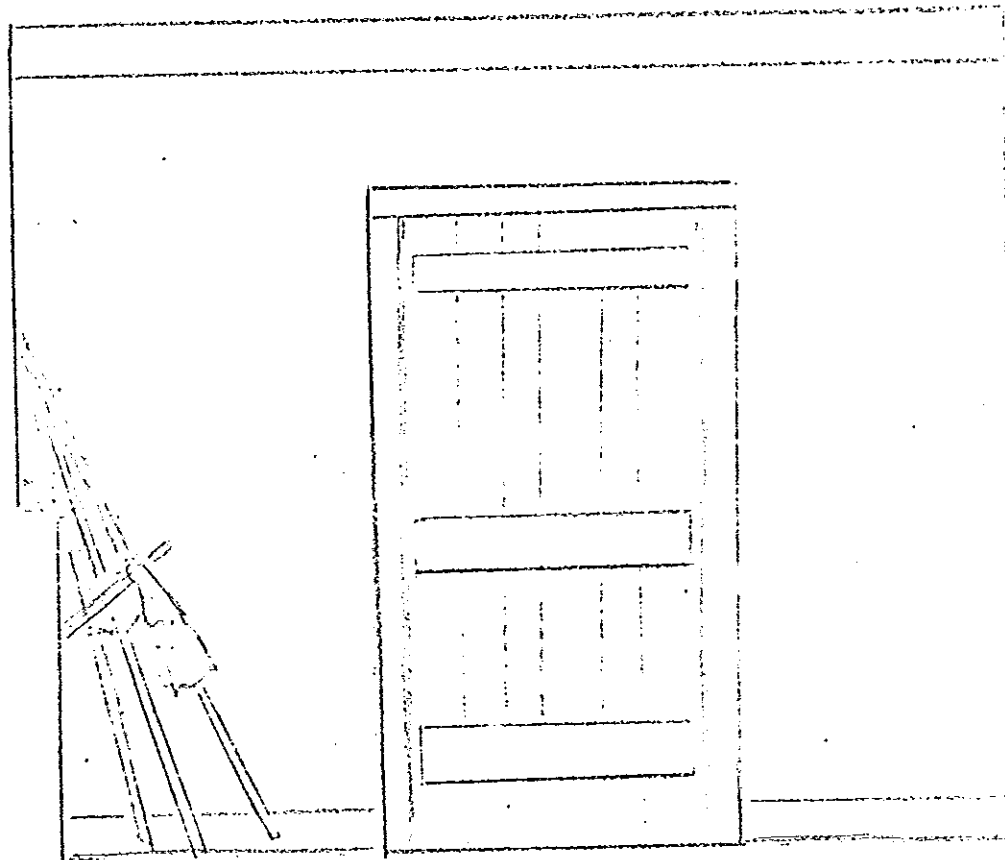


Dining Room - South

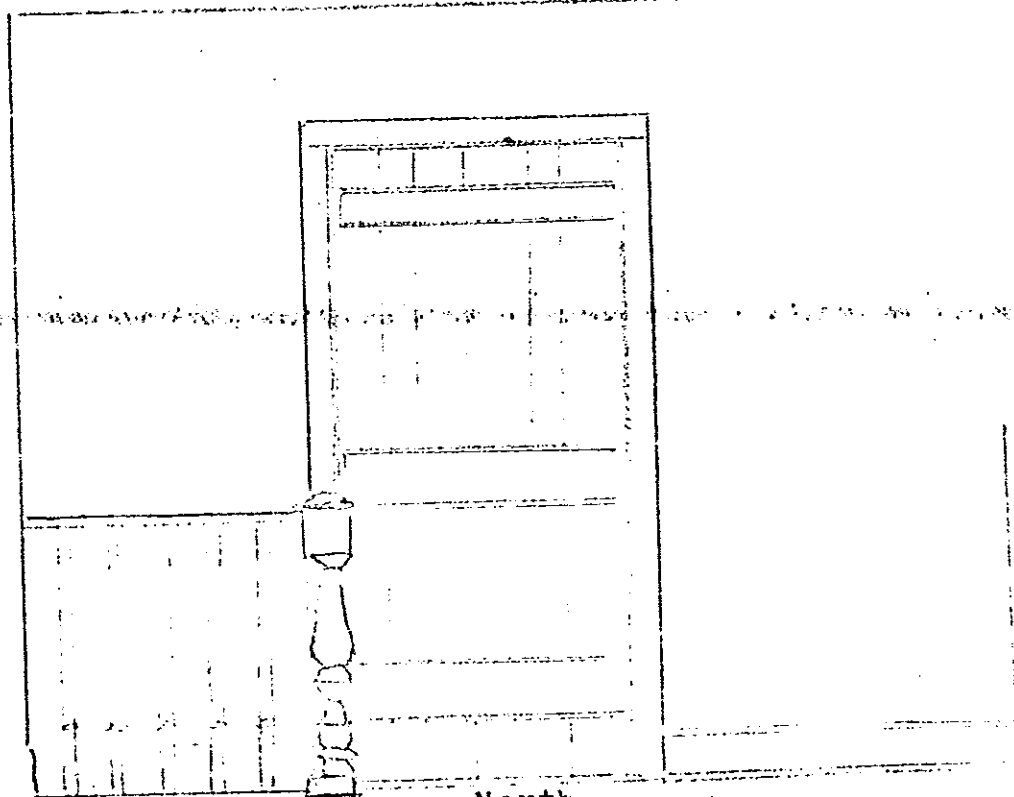


approx.  
 $\frac{1}{2}" = 1'$

N ↑ The Second Floor Hall



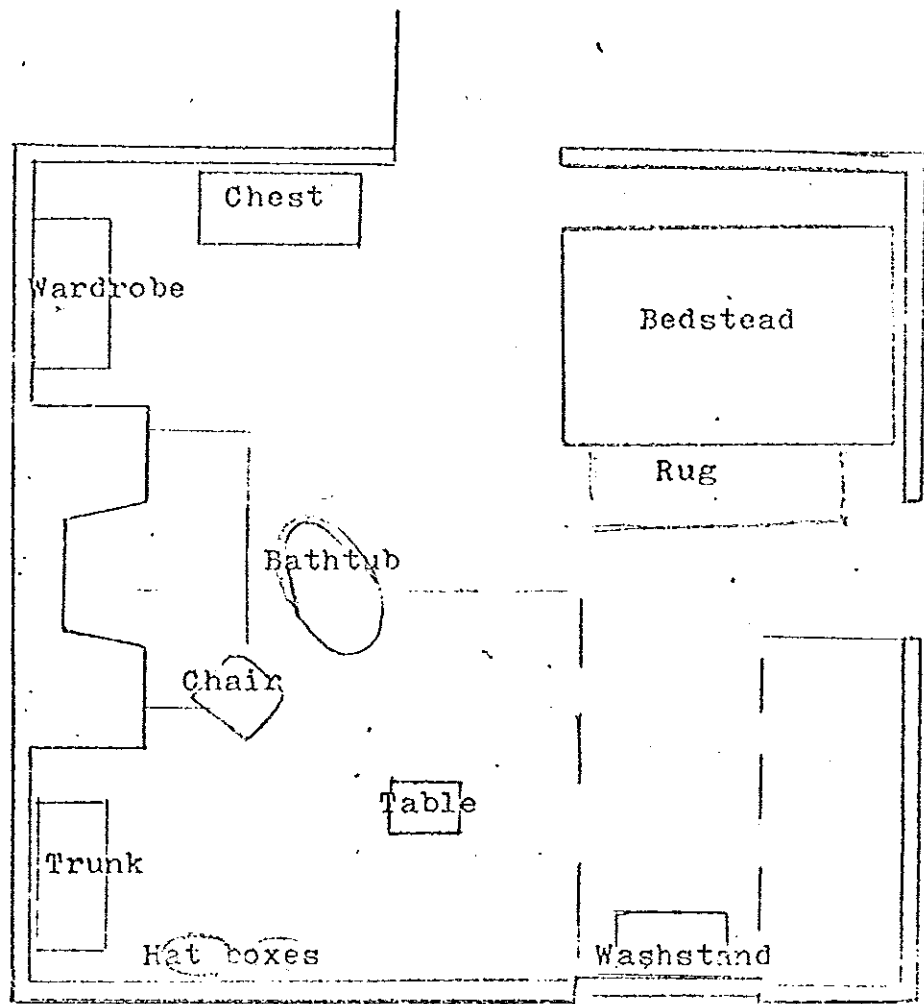
South



North

The Second Floor Hallway

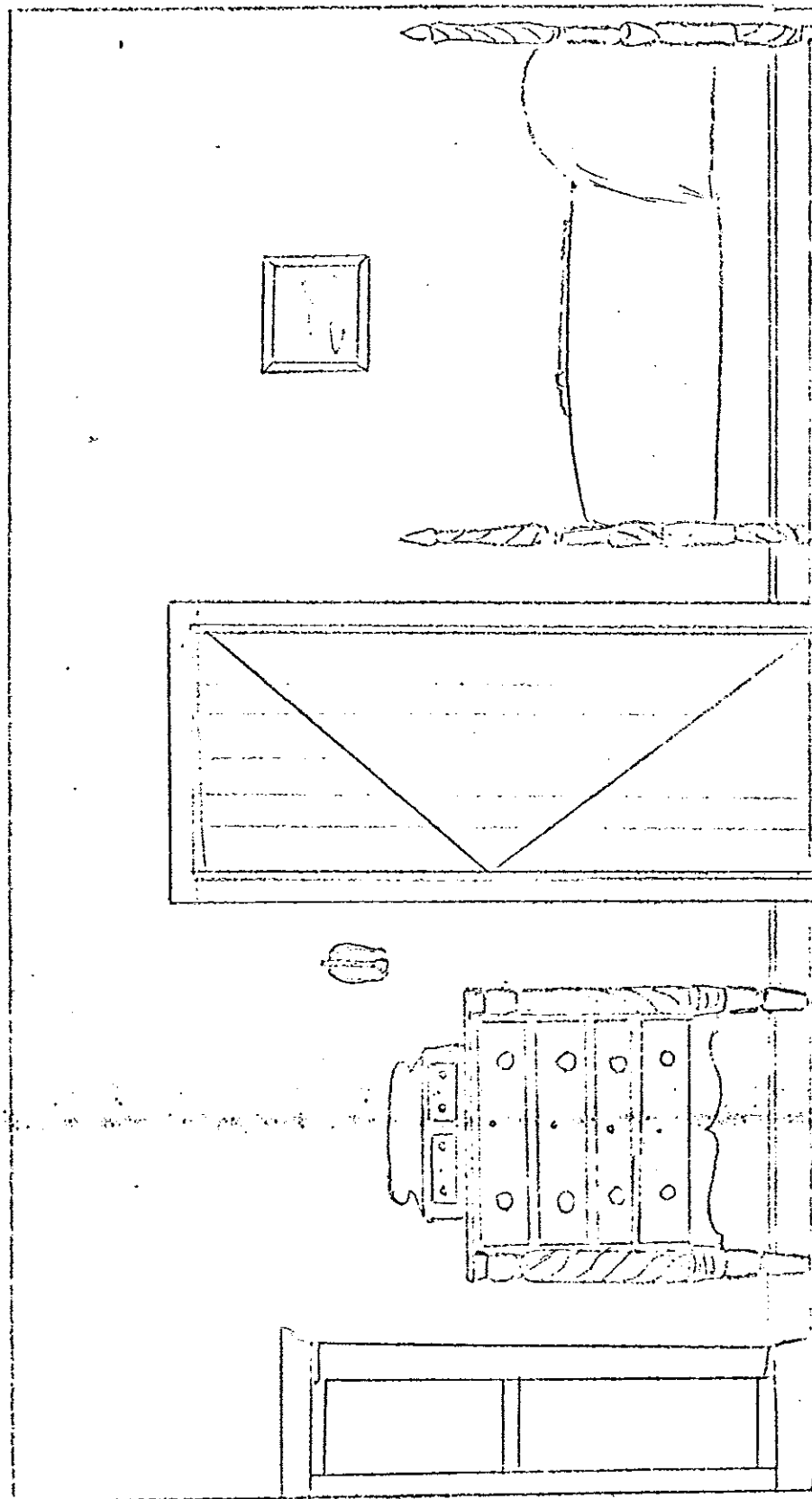




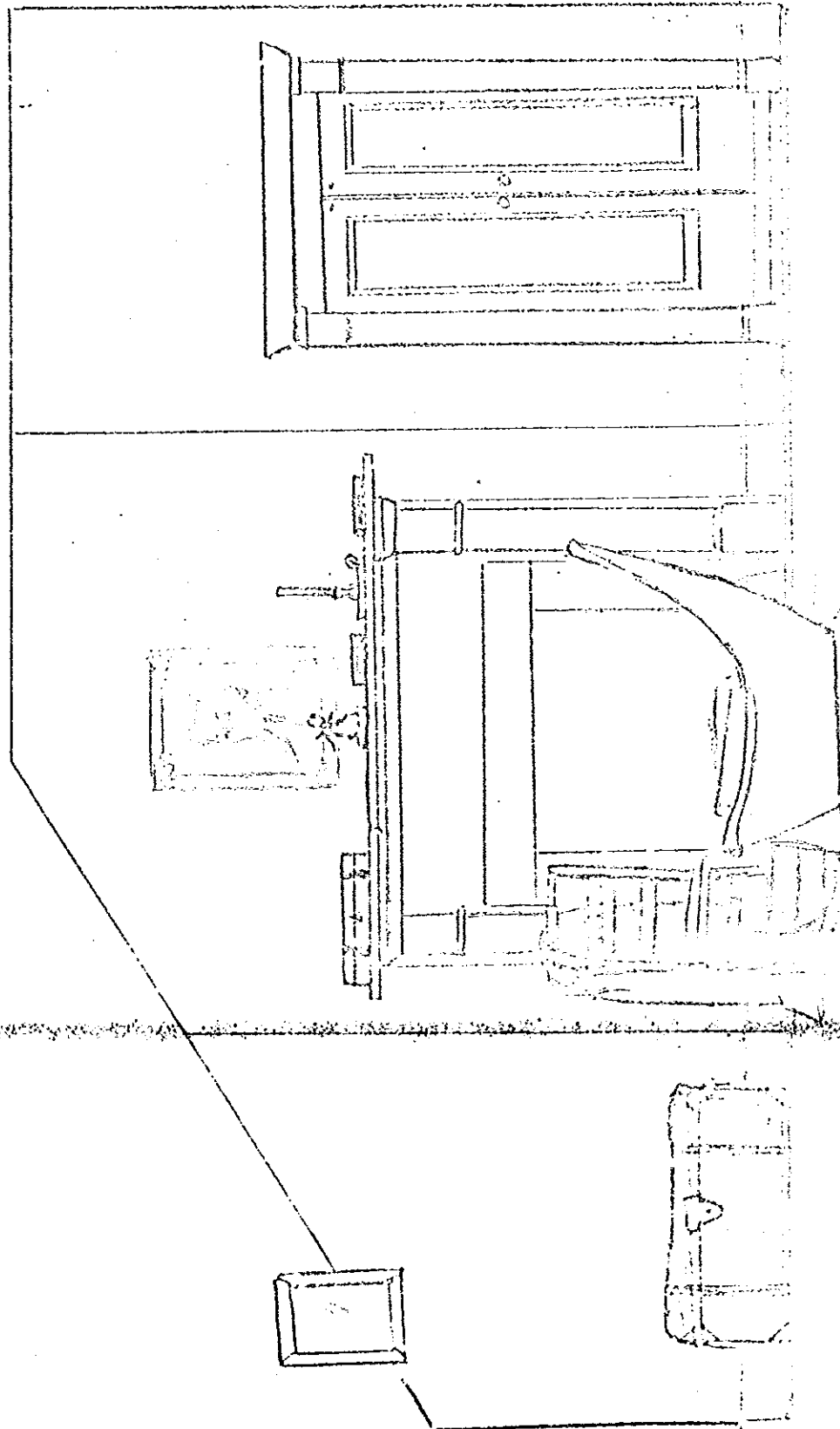
approx.  
 $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'$



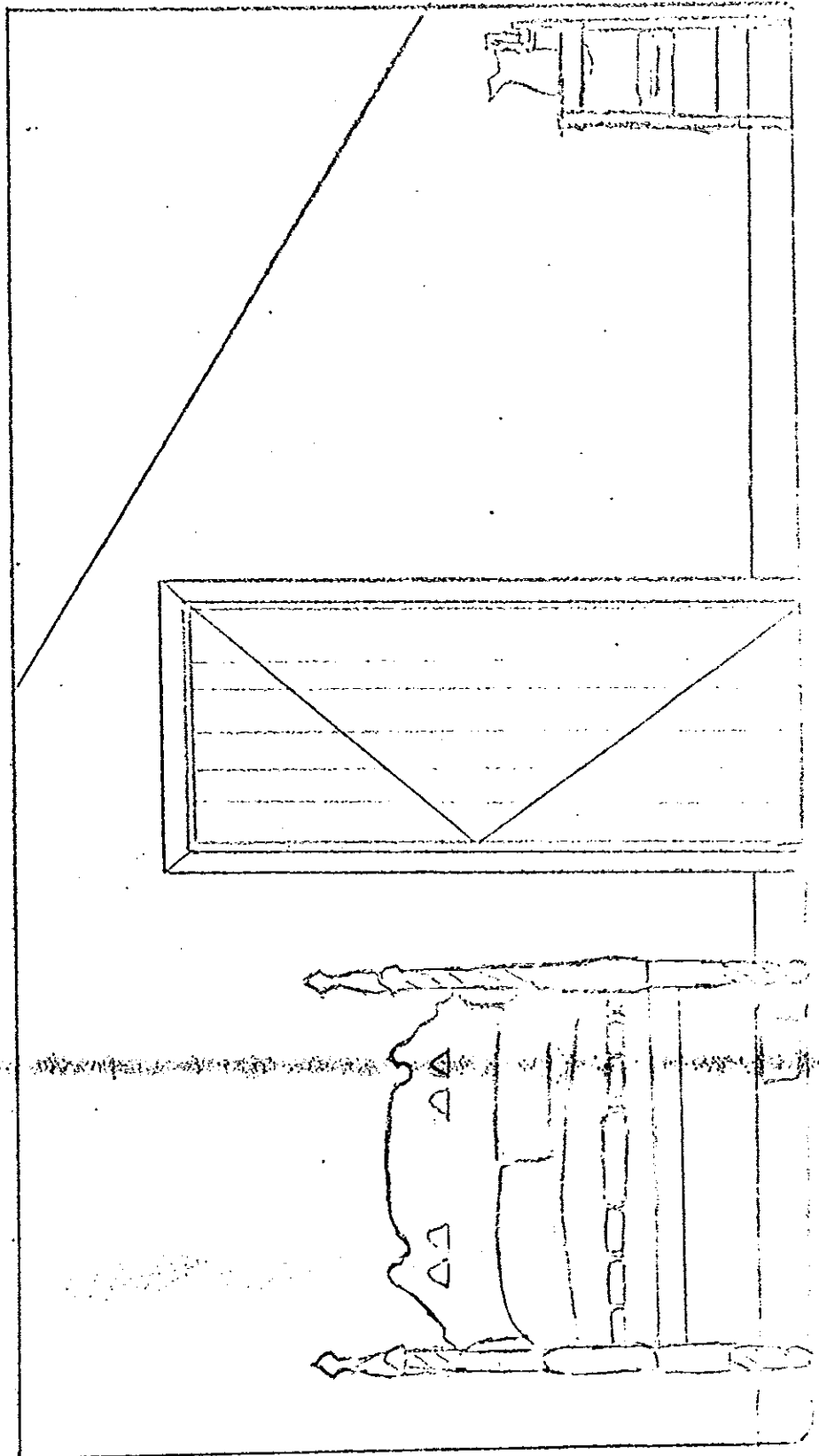
The Master Bedroom



The Master Bedroom - North



The Master Bedroom - West

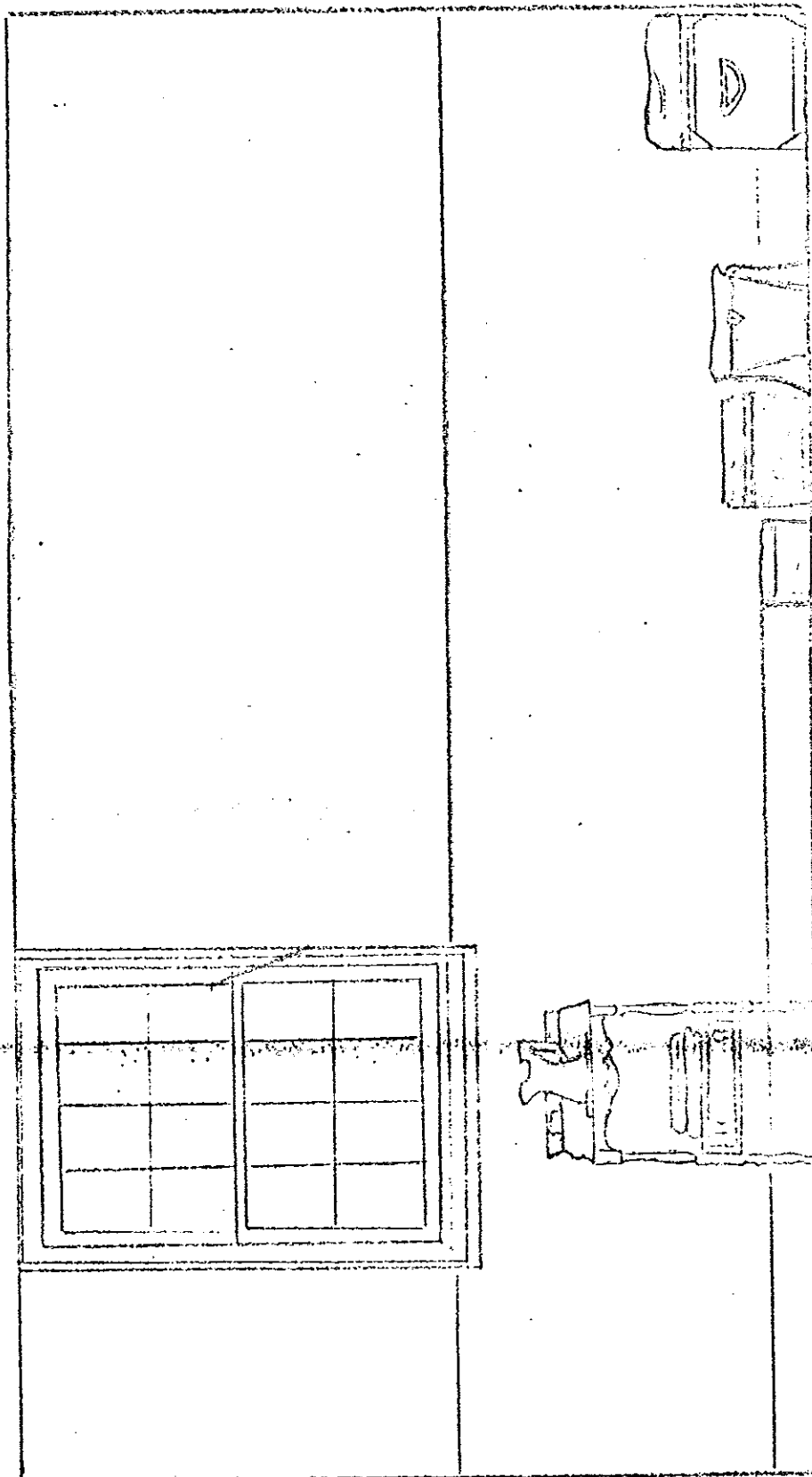


The Master Bedroom - East

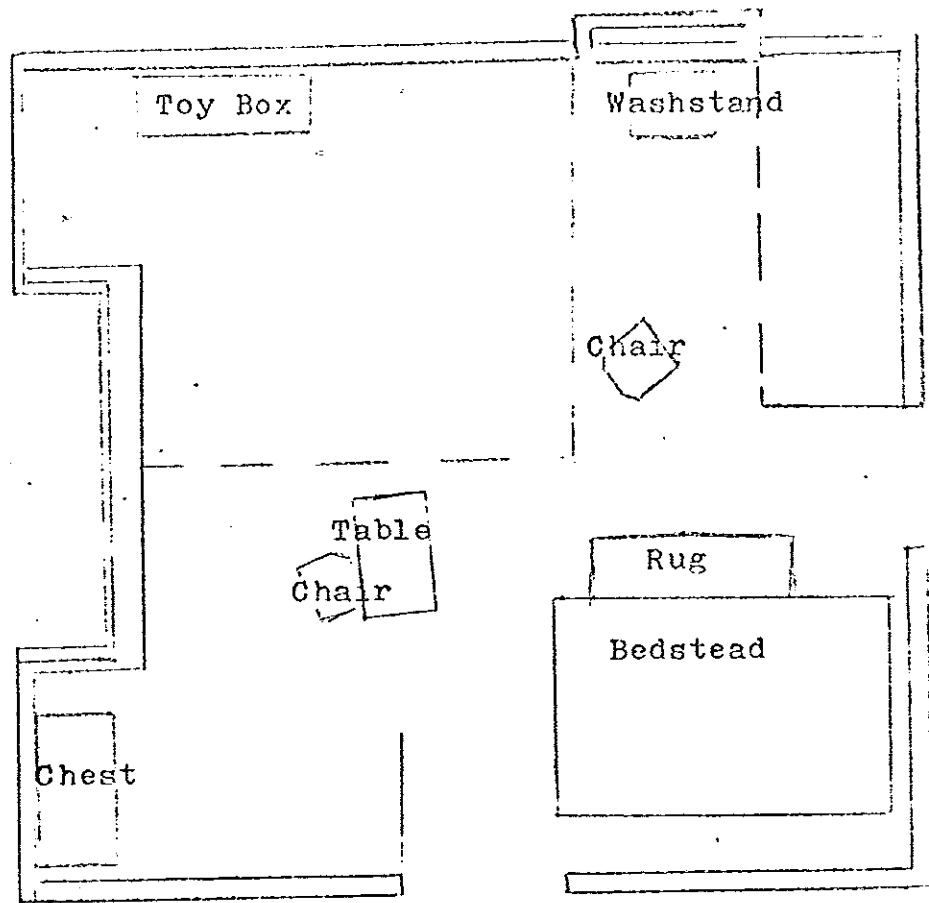
267-0385

\$590.00

J. Town  
Mar 21/1977



The Master Bedroom - South

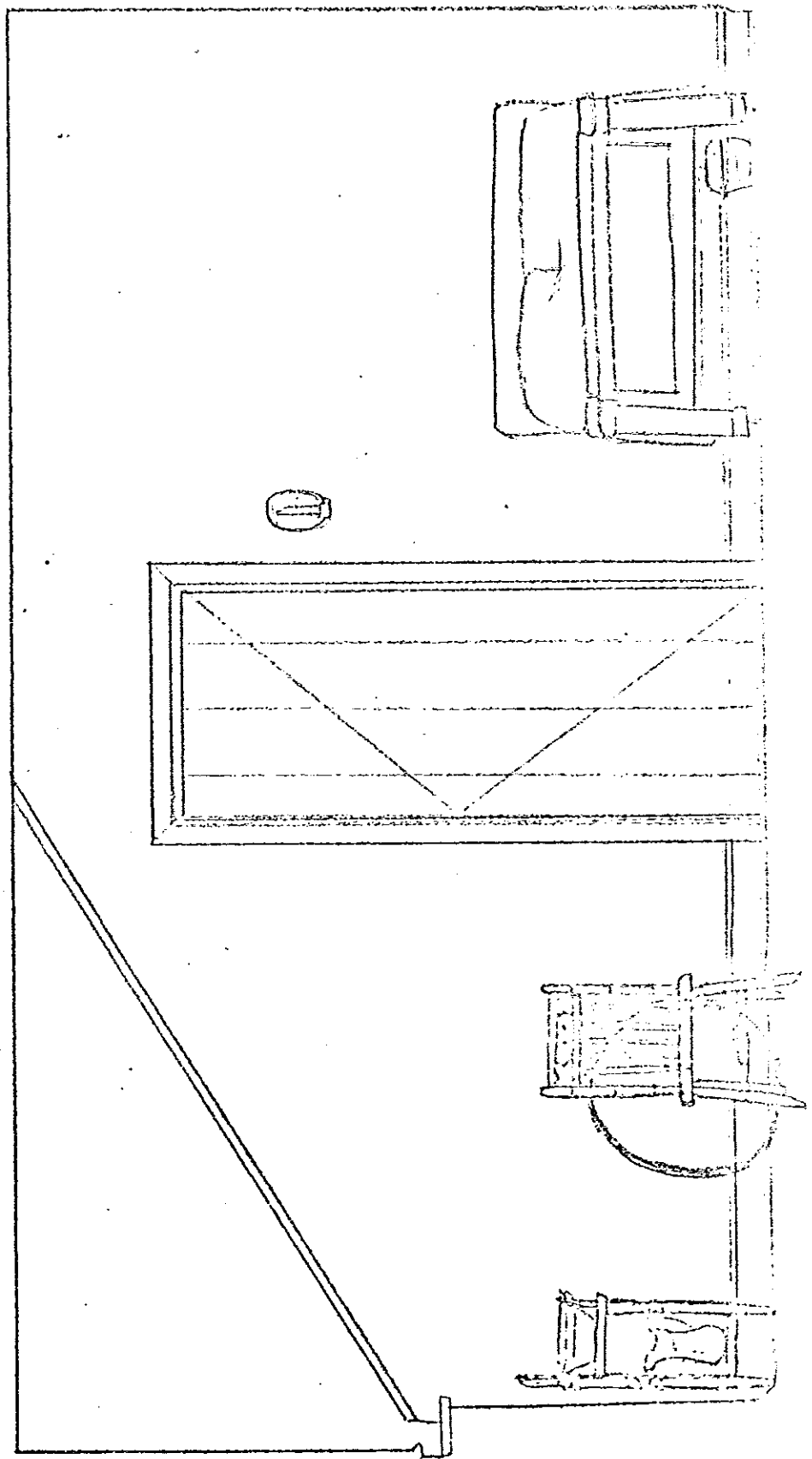


approx.  
 $\frac{1}{2}'' = 1'$

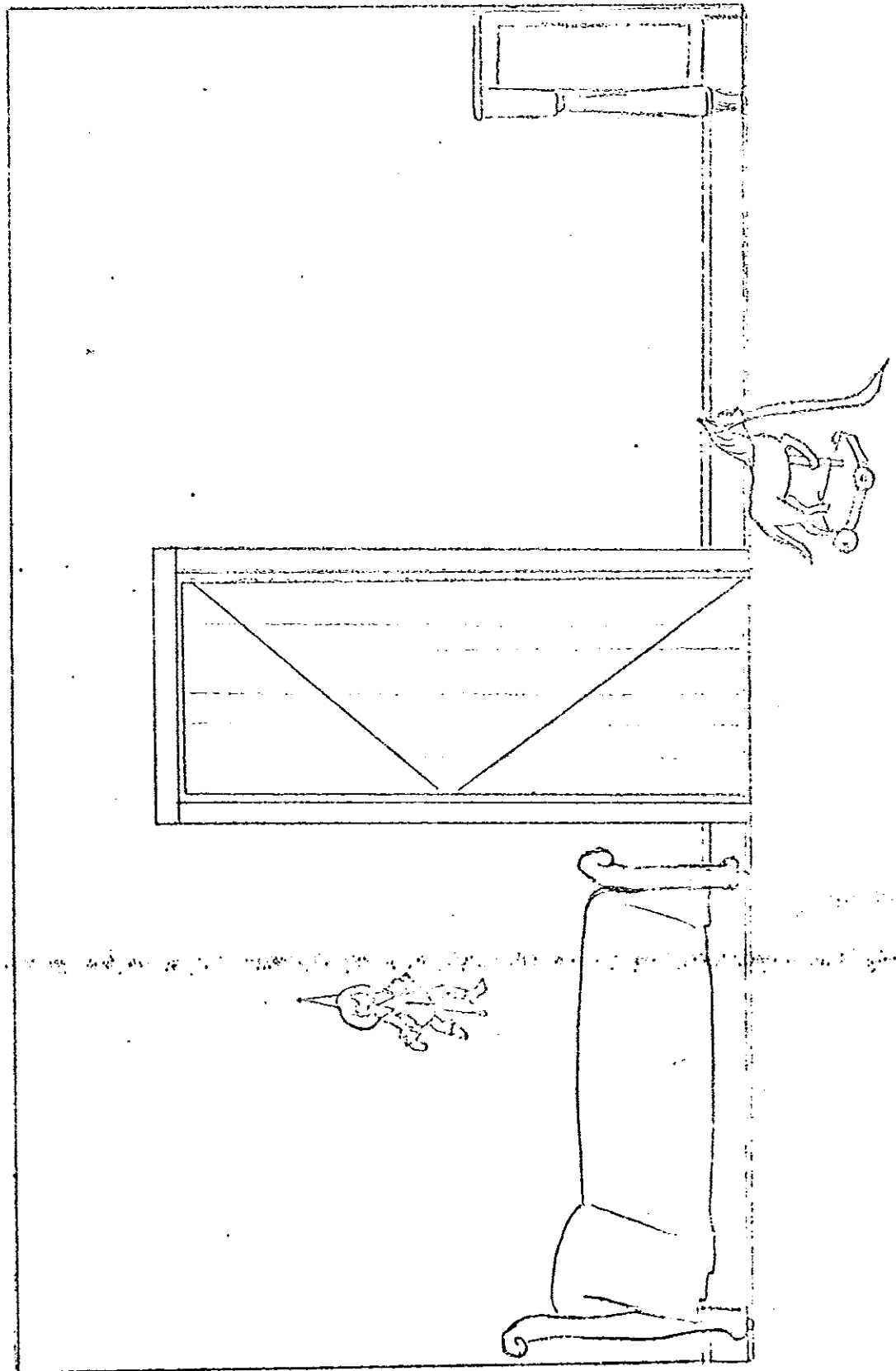
N



The Children's Bedroom

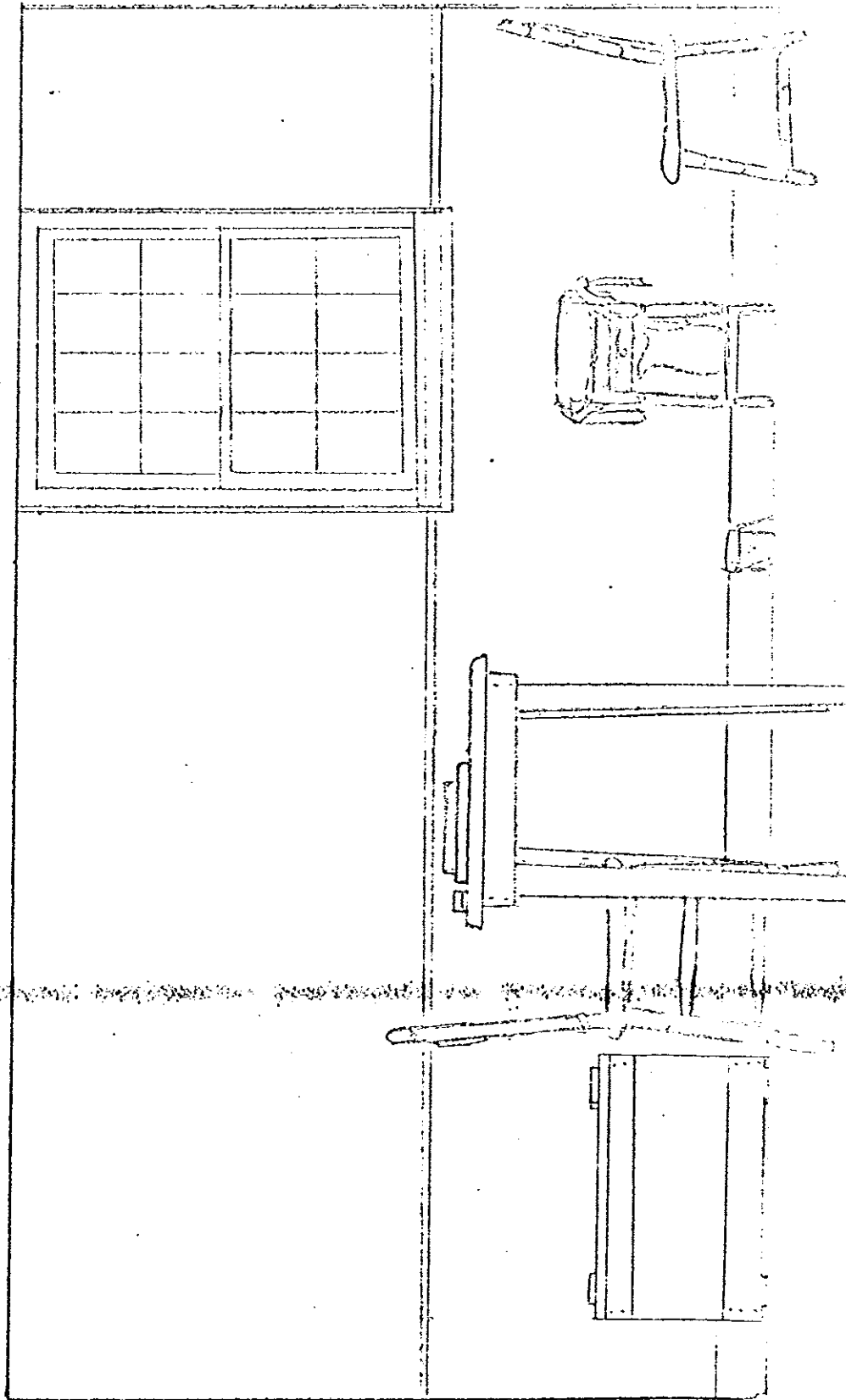


The Children's Bedroom - East

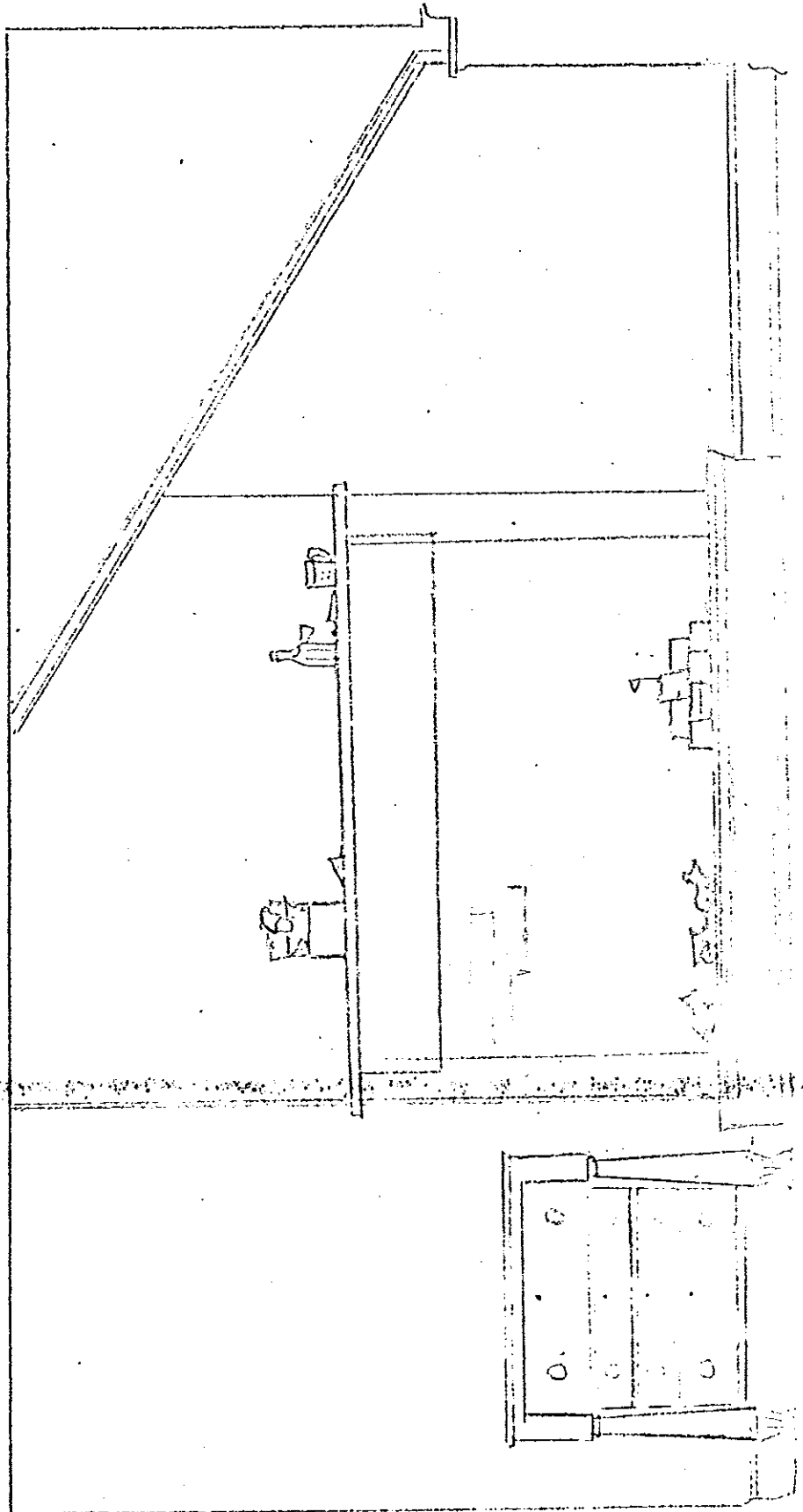


The Children's Bedroom - South

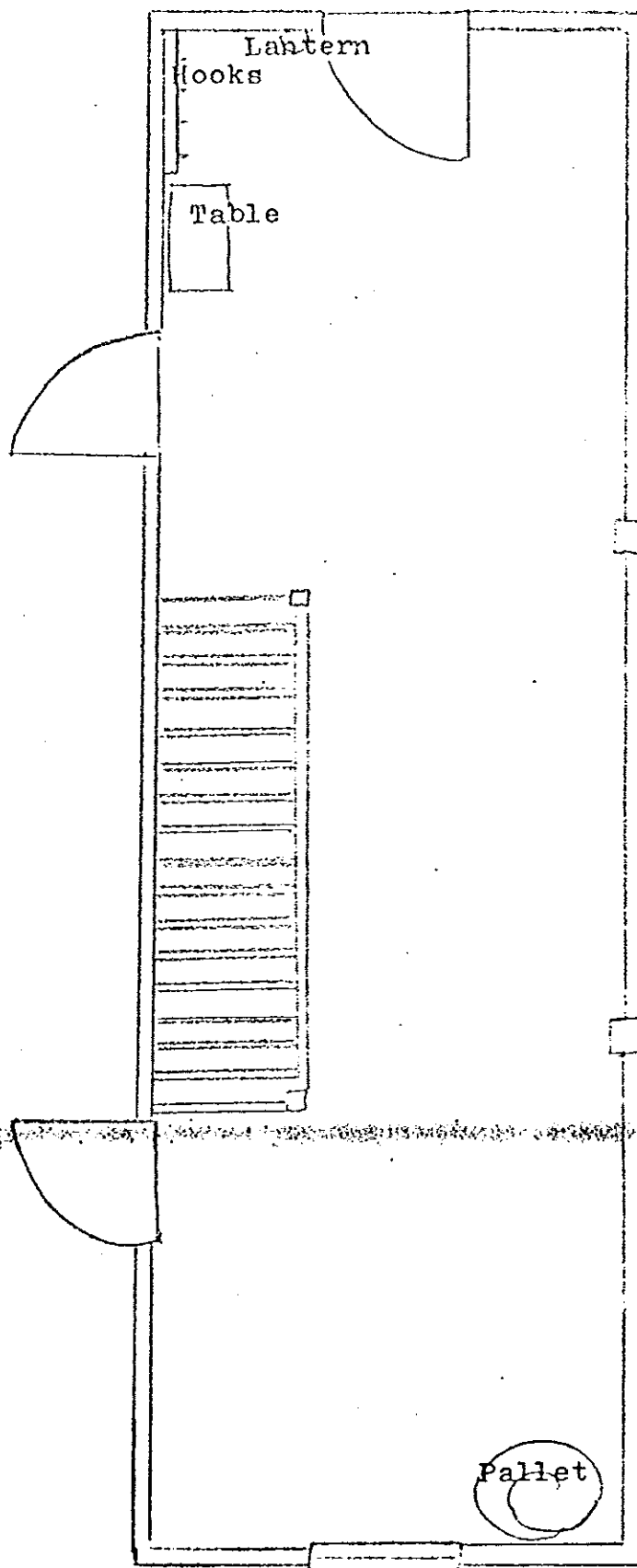




The Children's Bedroom - North  
81



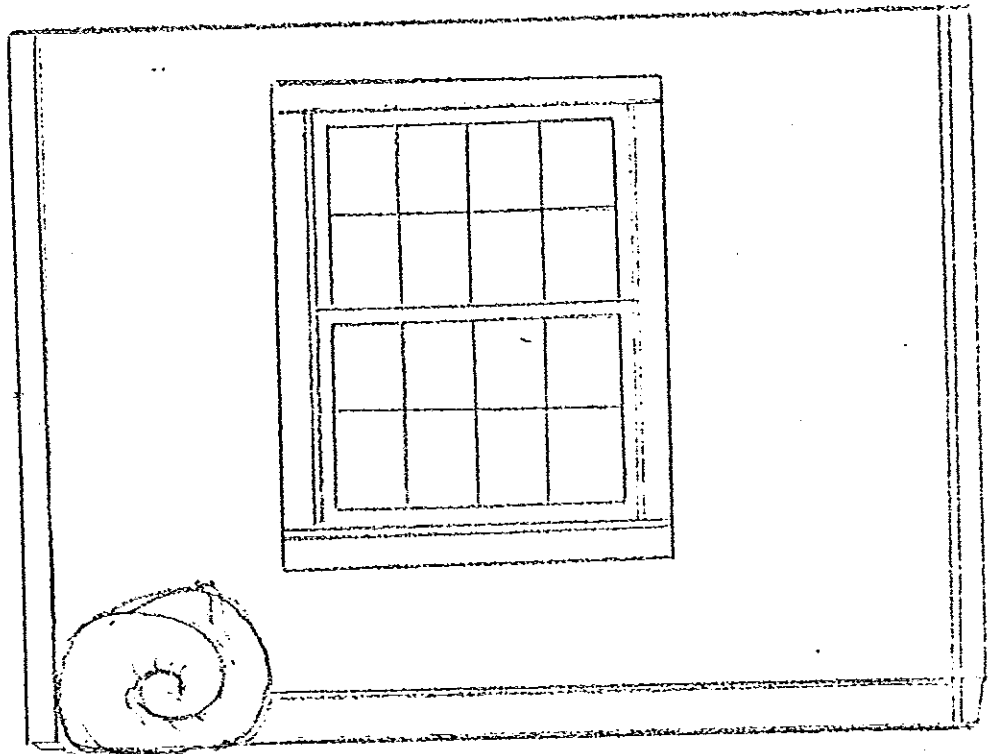
The Children's Bedroom - West



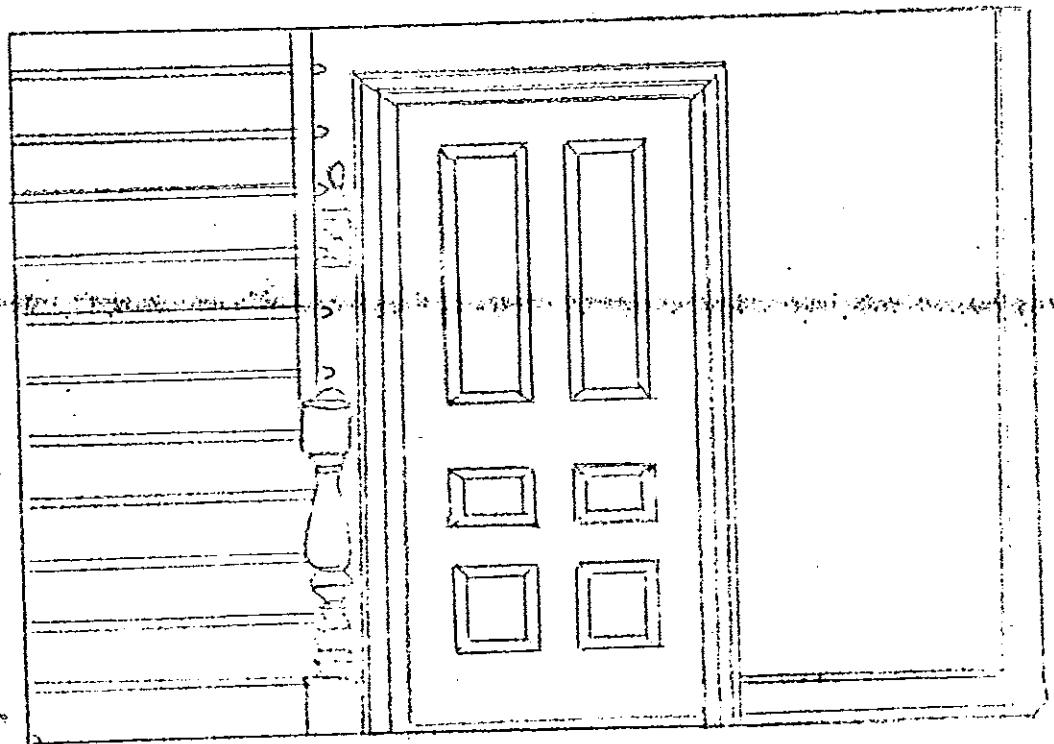
approx.  
 $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'$

N  
↑

Basement Hallway

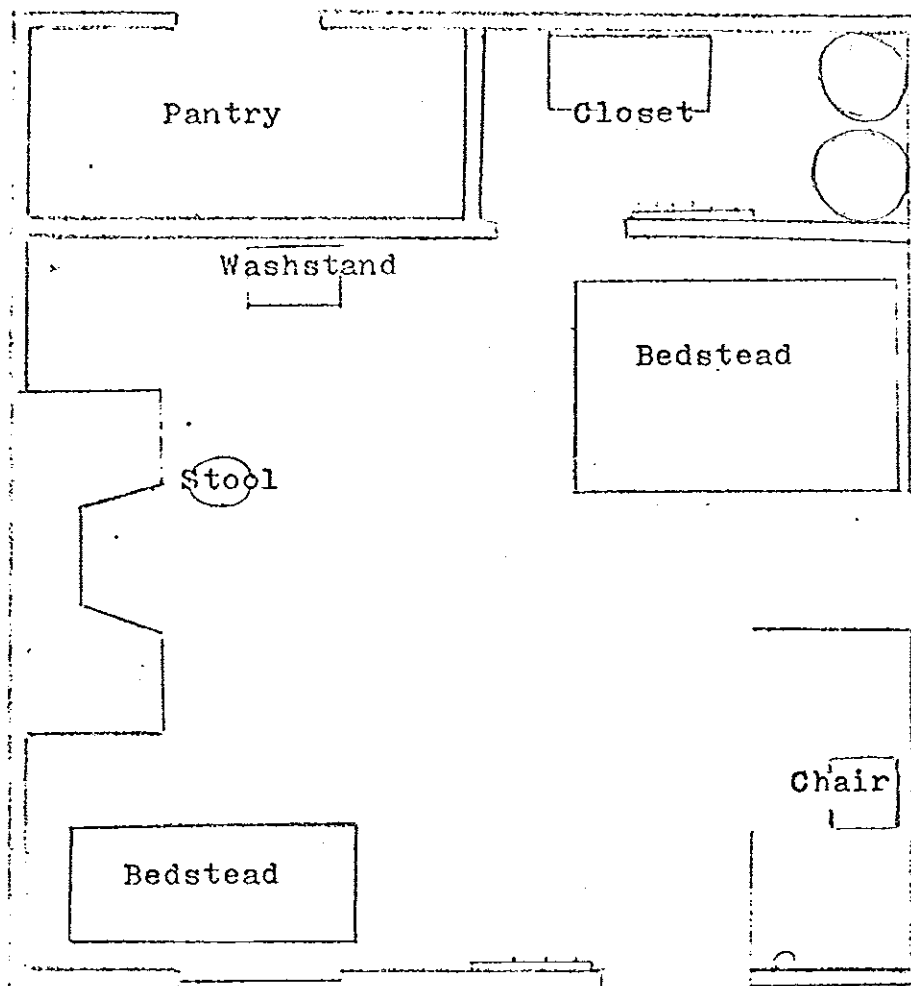


South



North

Basement Hallway

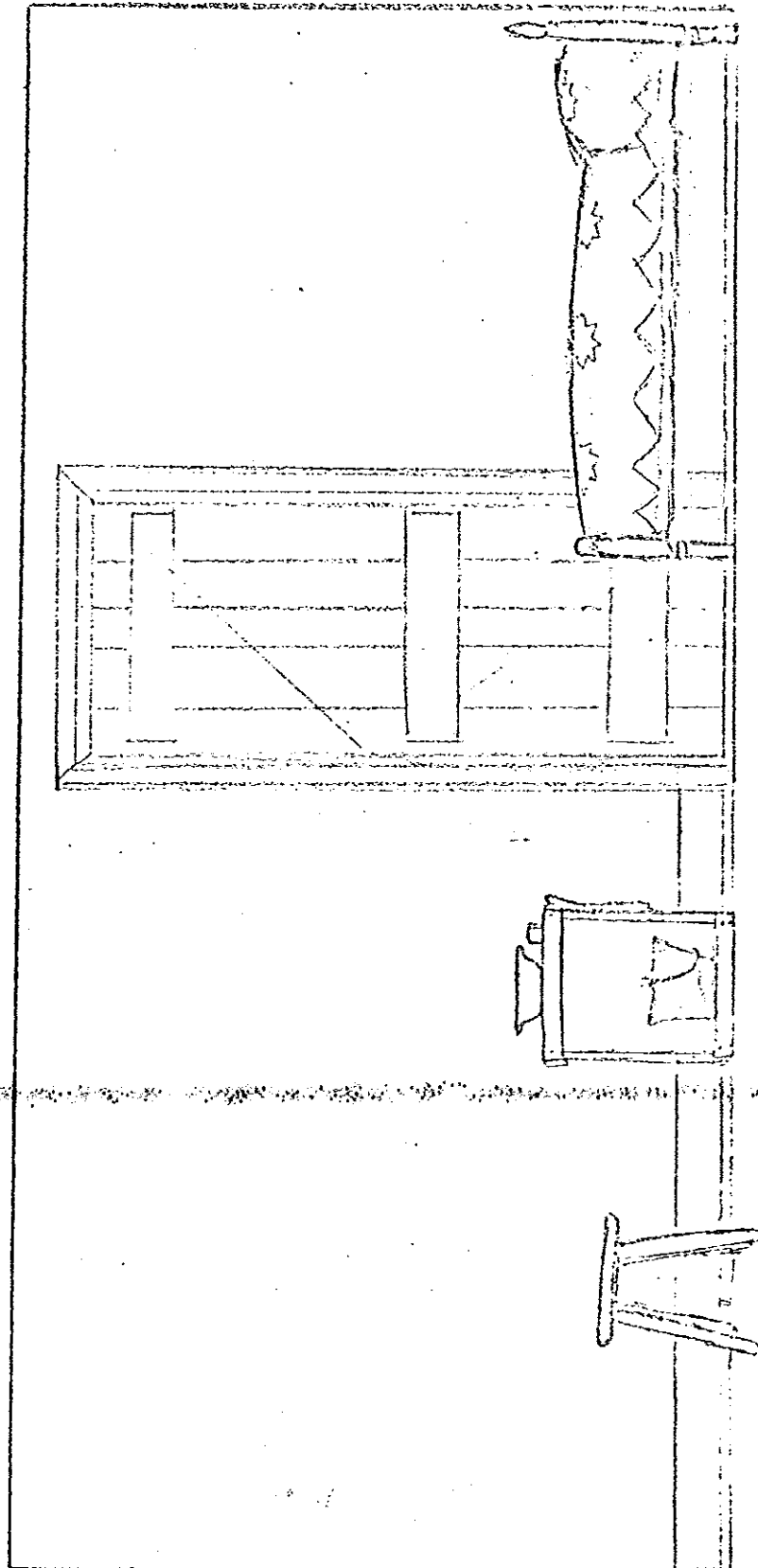


approx.  
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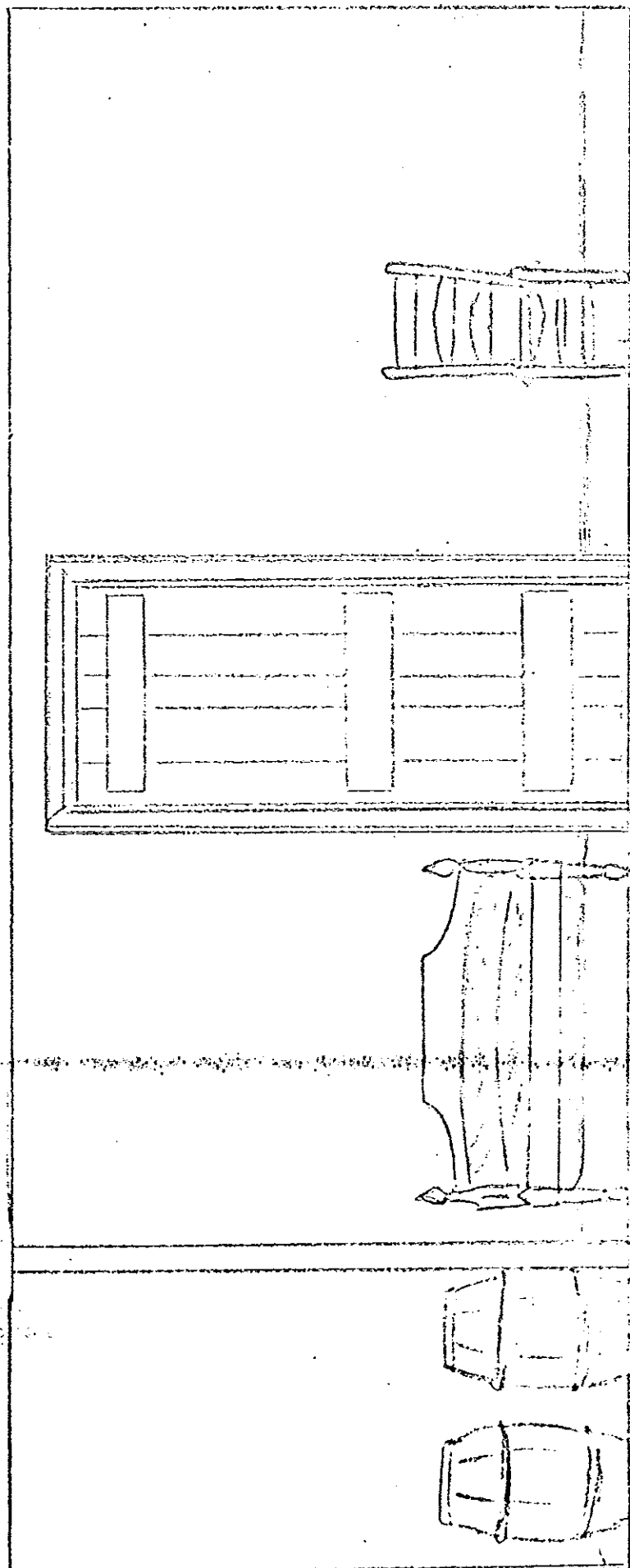
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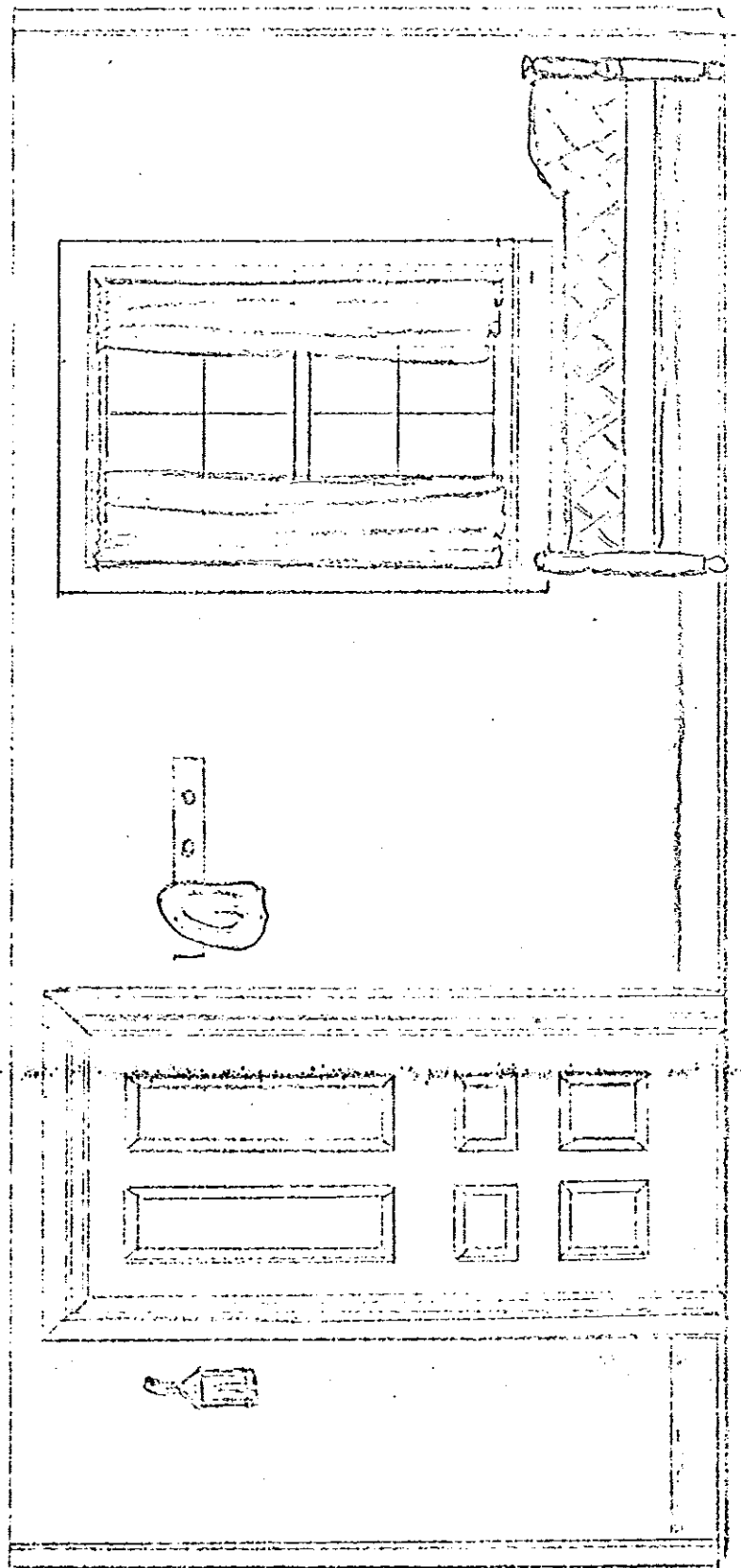
The Servants' Quarters



The Servants' Quarters - North



The Servants' Quarters - East



The Servants' Quarters - South